

STARS AND STRIPES®

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retirement**

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Running back Emmitt Smith



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**Hitting the
heights of
ski scenery**

Travel magazine inside

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

50¢

Pentagon now aims for voluntary anthrax shots

Department tries to revive plan by invoking emergency measure Page 5



*A jumping time for
U.S., Italian paratroopers*

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PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Left: A soldier from the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment sails toward the ground Wednesday during a series of jumps on the Juliet drop zone near Aviano Air Base, Italy. **About 218 soldiers from the "Rock" battalion and their 53 Italian counterparts had perfect weather for jumping.** **Right:** A group of U.S. soldiers hurry toward a Black Hawk Wednesday that would take them over the drop zone. The helicopter, assigned to Company B, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, stayed busy by making dozens of drops.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson trial: The judge in the Michael Jackson molestation case ended the first stage of jury selection a day early, in part because a surprisingly large number of prospective jurors said they were willing to serve.

Santa Barbara County, Calif., Judge Rodney S. Melville said roughly 250 of the 430 prospects screened Monday and Tuesday were willing to serve during the six-month trial.

L.A. hospital accreditation: The only public hospital in South Los Angeles has lost its accreditation, meaning it also could lose its ability to train doctors and care for emergency psychiatric and low-income patients.

Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center in South Los Angeles lost the approval Tuesday after the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations denied a final appeal by Los Angeles County to halt the withdrawal.

The accrediting agency decided in September that the hospital did not meet its standards.

Homeland Security nominee: President Bush's nominee for secretary of Homeland Security told senators on Wednesday that if confirmed he would balance protecting the nation with preserving civil liberties.

Michael Chertoff, a federal appeals court judge, was expected to face tough questioning about any role he took while heading the Justice Department's Criminal Division in approving interrogation techniques and other mistreatment of detainees swept up in the terrorism investigation following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

NYC subway fire: Service was expected to be mostly restored Wednesday to two busy New York subway lines knocked out by a fire last month, transit officials said. Officials initially estimated repairs would take up to five years.

Full non-peak service on the A and C lines was to be restored Wednesday morning and 70 percent of service was expected during the rush hours, New York City Transit president Lawrence Reuter said.

Rather replacement: Dan Rather probably will be replaced with veteran "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer on an interim basis when Rather steps down next month as "CBS Evening News" anchor.

Schieffer's likely selection was first reported by USA Today and confirmed Wednesday by a CBS News executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He would be a bridge toward a new format for the evening news, mirrored in last place in the ratings behind NBC and ABC. CBS chief Leslie Moonves said last month that he was probably going to install a multi-anchor format on the broadcast.

World

Darfur crisis: The European Union on Wednesday backed having the International Criminal Court hear cases of alleged war



Tsunami survivors: Murugupillai Jejarajah, center, a parent claimant of the tsunami survivor infant dubbed "Baby 81," cries as his wife, Jenita Jejarajah, holds the baby at a hospital in Kalmunai, Sri Lanka, on Wednesday. The couple were arrested on charges of storming into the pediatric ward where the baby is being cared for and obstructing the doctors on duty. That came after a judge on Wednesday ordered DNA tests to determine whether they are the real parents, a process which could take many weeks. A district judge freed the couple on bail, and they were ordered to appear in court Thursday.

crimes by government-backed militias or rebels in Sudan's Darfur region.

EU spokesman Amadeu Altafaj Tardio said EU nations were studying a report drafted by a U.N.-appointed panel which concluded Sudan's government and allied militias had likely committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

Iran nuclear program: The top official of the world's largest grouping of Muslim nations on Wednesday welcomed the recent elections in Iraq but said the Islamic world does not need another "intervention" in Iran.

Eklemeddin Ihsanoglu, secretary-general of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference, said in Islamabad, Pakistan, the grouping favored an amicable solution of the dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

Sept. 11 trial: Sept. 11 suicide hijacker Mohamed Atta appeared "psychologically disturbed" and acted "distant" when encountered on the street, a former neighbor testified Wednesday in Hamburg, Germany, during the retrial of a Moroccan accused of providing logistical support for the attacks.

Indira Andrea Braun, 34, lived next door to Atta in a Hamburg suburb and said she saw defendant Mounir el Motassadeq visiting him. Atta also was visited by suicide pilots Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehi and others suspected of involvement in the Sept. 11 plot, she said.

Motassadeq

Tsunami relief: Bureaucratic bungling has blocked food, medicine and other necessities from reaching a stunning 70 percent

of the 1 million Sri Lankans left destitute by the Asian tsunami disaster, a government official said Wednesday, as hungry and homeless survivors protested the lack of help.

In a troubling admission, Thilak Ranaviraj, chief of Sri Lanka's presidential task force to coordinate relief, said bureaucratic incompetence and ignorance of tsunami survivors had considerably slowed aid delivery.

Germany-Israel relations: Germany's president told Israeli lawmakers in Jerusalem on Wednesday



Koehler

that he bows his head "in shame and humility" before the victims of the Nazi Holocaust, the group he promised that Germany would wage a determined battle against anti-Semitism.

The president, Horst Koehler, also denounced Palestinian suicide bombings as indefensible acts of terrorism and said Germany would always stand by Israel and its people.

Serbia assassination suspect: A key suspect in the 2003 assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic arrived in Belgrade on Wednesday after being extradited from Greece.

Dejan Milenkovic, a crime figure known as Bugsy, was handed over in handcuffs at the Athens airport to Serbian security officers who escorted him on a plane to Serbia-Montenegro.

After touchdown in Belgrade, Milenkovic was whisked away by heavy security in a motorcade of armored jeeps.

Milenkovic was arrested last July in the Greek port of Thessaloniki, after more than 15 months on the run.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

A story in Wednesday's paper about a series of town hall meetings in the Kaiserslautern, Germany, military community contained incorrect information. The first meeting, set for 9 a.m. Thursday at the Hercules Theater on Ramstein Air Base, will be hosted by Col. Bob Otto, vice commander of the 435th Air Wing.

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SETAF troops warm up with Black Hawk jump

Italian forces join U.S. for training outside Aviano

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

VAJONT, Italy — It was 10 degrees below freezing when soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment gathered Wednesday morning in a vacant field.

But there's nothing like a short ride in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to warm up the blood. Especially when the way back down involves a parachute.

"That was the coolest thing I've ever seen," said an onlooker watching a group of soldiers float down onto the field known as Juliet drop zone.

While spectators say it's cool to watch, troops say it's even better to actually make the jump.

"Once you get over the first 15 or 20 jumps, your parachute opens and you look around and say, 'This is kind of cool,'" said Maj. Andrew Rohling, the battalion's executive officer.

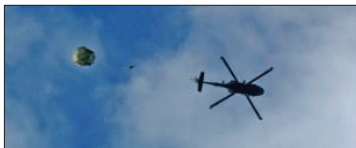
By the time the 218 soldiers from the "Rock" battalion and their 53 Italian counterparts got in lines to board the helicopter that would take them skyward, the temperature had warmed up considerably.

That meant the only chill came from the often-cutting remarks from a trio of soldiers directing the jumps from a van parked near where the paratroopers came down.

"I'm going to get a bullhorn tomorrow," said Sgt. 1st Class Danny Boivin, shaking his head at a soldier who was parachute slow getting his parachute rolled up. "It should only take a few minutes to get the chute into the bag."

"There's always room for improvement," Sgt. 1st Class Juan Pena said of his critiquing.

"We're depended on to provide in-theater air operations, and



A Black Hawk helicopter from Company B, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment starts letting out paratroopers during a series of jumps Wednesday at the Juliet drop zone near Aviano Air Base, Italy.

that's why we're doing this," said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Collins.

Though it seemed like fun, training was the priority at the drop zone, which is about 15 miles northeast of Aviano. A helicopter from Company B, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, based at the air base, provided the ride. Soldiers from the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) usually jump out of C-130s to stay jump qualified. But the C-130s were busy elsewhere, and many soldiers in the unit haven't had the chance to jump recently.

No one seemed to be complaining about the change in transportation.

"It's a little more of a fall [from a helicopter] instead of a violent exit," Rohling said, explaining that a fixed-wing aircraft travels a lot faster and those with parachutes are effectively sucked out rapidly.

But what about those rotor blades on the helicopter?

"The aircraft stays at a constant height of 1,500 feet," said 1st Lt. Troy Gammon, discounting the likelihood of a chute getting tangled in the blades. "And you fall down, away from the aircraft."

Black Hawks are very good at this.

More than a few SETAF soldiers hadn't jumped from a Black Hawk before. And Sergio Bondielli, sergeant major of the Brigata Folgore — Italy's only airborne brigade — said none of his soldiers had.

"They are very happy about it," Bondielli said. "It's an honor for them to receive U.S. [jump] wings."

Most of the Italians participating have jumped from CH-47 Chinook helicopters the Italian military owns. In addition to the airborne troops, five Carabinieri paratroopers and six Alpini (mountain troops) also were set to jump. The Italians are regular partners when the Americans jump onto Juliet.

Americans also use Italian aircraft when they jump with their counterparts in Pisa.

For the Americans, it was one of the last opportunities many of them will have to jump for a while. SETAF is set to deploy to Afghanistan in the coming months for a yearlong tour.

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PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

An Italian paratrooper touches down Wednesday on the Juliet drop zone near Aviano Air Base while an American counterpart drifts down, with the Dolomite mountain range in the background. Soldiers had clear skies and a small breeze — perfect weather for jumping.

Job Shadow Day pays off in Hohenfels

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

If the point of Job Shadow Day was for students to patiently tail one of their parents to work and quietly observe them, the kids in the Hohenfels military community didn't get the memo.

Instead, Hohenfels students from elementary through high school Tuesday took an active part in the popular career-mentoring program, getting some hands-on experience in everything from shelving books to driving tanks.

Students took photos, worked with sick animals, fed lunch to day-care toddlers and clocked hours in just about every department on the base, from the legal office to the public works department, Hohenfels program coordinator Melissa Wolff said.

While many kids did go to work with mom or dad to learn more about their parents' occupations, this year Wolff said she received a record number of special requests from Hohenfels kids to explore certain professions, including one from a student who wants to be a paleontologist. Wolff said she was able to oblige.

"Whatever the kids are interested in, we set it up," she said.

On-the-job training also included working on a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment M113A3 armored personnel carrier,

a task 11-year-old Sam Houston said he may one day pursue as a profession.

"I want to be in the Army to begin with," Houston said, "and being a tanker looks kind of cool."

Now in her third year of running the Hohenfels event, Wolff said participation has been steadily growing in Job Shadow Day, with about 500 of the approximately 800 local students forsaking the classroom for the boardroom Tuesday. More than half of the Department of Defense schools in Europe took part in the annual event, she said.

"For the first time ever, we had completely empty classrooms," she said.

The program is a nationwide event sponsored by the National Job Shadow Day Coalition and timed to fall on or around Groundhog Day each year. According to its official Web site, the Coalition expects over a million students worldwide to shadow workers in 100,000 businesses this week.

One of those budding employees on Tuesday was 8-year-old T.C. Hope, who helped his mother, Tricia Hope, with her job as a library technician for the day.

Tricia Hope, who is pursuing a degree in library sciences, said she taught her son and the 8-year-old girls shadowing her about the Dewey decimal system and the history of libraries while they practiced shelving books. Asked if they en-



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Seven-year-old Bepi Roark files a book Tuesday at the Hohenfels library in some on-the-job training with library technician Tricia Hope on Job Shadow Day.



Carolina Lechner, 10, strains to get a good photo of fellow Hohenfels students on Job Shadow Day. Lechner helped a reporter for the base newspaper Training Times.

joyed a day at work better than a day at school, the kids in the group said anything is better than school.

"We like it way fine," T.C. said.

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Personnel offices move from Patch Barracks

Aim is to make spacious, woody Panzer Casern the services hub for Stuttgart

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The decommissioning of Patch Barracks continued this week when offices that serve Stuttgart's incoming and outgoing military personnel were moved to Panzer Casern.

About 40 employees from the housing, transportation and processing divisions moved their belongings last week to their new consolidated home, a remodeled three-story building at Panzer. On Monday, the Stuttgart Welcome Center opened for business.

"The intent is to have one-stop shopping," said Arno Duchstein, chief of housing for the 6th Area Support Group, which serves the Stuttgart military community.

The move was the first of several designed to make the spacious, woody Panzer Casern the services hub for Stuttgart. A building adjacent to the Welcome Center is being renovated to become home for Army Community Services. A new base exchange, billing and commissary are scheduled for Panzer, which is about 7 miles south of Patch Barracks.

Patch Barracks, home of the U.S. European Command, has been challenged for years to make space for its various employ-

"We were packed like sardines over there, but you can only get so many sardines into a can."

Arno Duchstein
chief of housing for
6th Area Support Group

ees, visitors and shoppers as well as their cars. In January, a popular but deteriorating bar was razed to put in a parking lot. The relocation of housing, transportation and processing frees up two more buildings and parking lots at Patch, where the majority of the 15,000-member Stuttgart Military Community is employed. Patch is also home to the community's junior-senior high school.

"We were packed like sardines over there," Duchstein said, "but you can only get so many sardines into a can." For employees, the new 29,000-square-foot Welcome Center at Panzer is an improvement in several ways over the old, two-building setup at Patch:

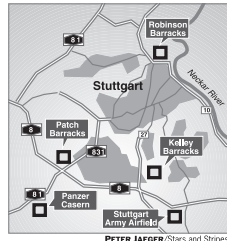
■ There's central air-conditioning so employees can leave their fans at home.

■ The old building had a kiddie corner for children when their parents were busy dealing with paperwork; the new one has an entire kiddie room.

■ Input from employees, according to transportation officer Ray Eden, helped lead to features such as abundant electrical outlets and big windows which provide lots of natural light.

■ The private offices for housing counselors are also a step up from the cramped cubicles at their former building.

■ For personnel on the move, for example, the out-processing office is on the same floor as SATO Travel to help with parking arrangements and the 560th Military Police Customs to help with customs.



PETER JACOB/Stars and Stripes

"Furnishing, housing, driver's license, it makes it much better here because everything is in one building," said Army Staff Sgt. Dianna Price of 587th Signal Company, who on Tuesday was out-processing. "You have more privacy when you talk with a same-gender counselor."

As with most new structures, there are some kinks to be

worked out.

The thermostat in the computer room wasn't keeping the computers cool enough and needed to be adjusted. The muddy parking lot needed to be paved and the grounds need to be landscaped.

"It's like everything — you have to polish off the rough edges," Duchstein said.

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Troops mourn 31 victims of Iraq helo crash

The Associated Press

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — U.S. troops held a memorial Wednesday for 31 servicemembers killed in the crash of a transport helicopter during a swirling sandstorm in Iraq's vast western desert — the U.S. military's single biggest loss of life here since the March 2003 invasion.

Filing past their fallen comrades' combat boots, rifles and helmets, Marines took turns kneeling in front of the display. One Marine wept, burying his face in one of his hands. Others hugged each other.

A soldier played taps on a bright gold trumpet as hundreds of other troops stood in stiff salutes and two helicopter gunships flew overhead through a bright blue sky.

The CH-53E Super Stallion transport helicopter crashed shortly after midnight on Jan. 26 during a fierce sandstorm near the Syrian border, killing 30 Marines and one Navy sailor.

The hulking aircraft was transporting troops to this base near the Iraqi town of Rutbah for security operations in preparation for last weekend's elections. The cause of the crash is still under investigation, but officials have said it does not appear the helicopter was downed by hostile fire.

During Wednesday's memorial, a Marine strummed on a guitar before placing the instrument beside the row of upright rifles.

Most of the victims of the crash — 26 Marines and the sailor — were from Hawaii's Kaneohe Bay base.



Above: A U.S. Marine cries during the memorial service Wednesday at Camp Korean Village, Iraq, for the 31 U.S. troops killed Jan. 26 when their helicopter crashed.

Left: A Marine placed a guitar beside the row of rifles during the ceremony.

AP photos

Suit dismissed in midshipman's fatal fall at dorm

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A judge dismissed a wrongful death lawsuit against the U.S. Navy that was filed by the family of a Naval Academy student who died in a fall from his dormitory window.

Midshipman John Paul Ruggiero, 20, of Gouldsboro, Pa., tumbled from a second-floor window at the academy in Annapolis, Md., following a night of off-campus drinking in August 2002.

Navy lawyers argued that the legal claim, filed by the midshipman's parents, is barred by a doctrine that protects the military from being sued over injuries to servicemembers on active duty.

The rule was generally intended to prevent military commanders from being hauled into court for ordering troops into dangerous situations, and lawyers for the family have argued that it shouldn't apply to Ruggiero's death.

In his Jan. 20 ruling that dismissed the family's lawsuit, U.S. District Judge A. Richard Caputo wrote that Ruggiero "would not have fallen from his window ... had it not been incident to his status as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy."

The lawsuit questioned whether getting into bed was a military act and argued the Academy was obligated to provide safe housing.

Ruggiero's family claimed the huge, nearly floor-to-ceiling windows in the dormitory were unsafe, and that the window in their son's room lacked a screen. They also complained that academy officials were aware that students were routinely using their skills to hang laundry, or as a first step into their bunk.

The family's attorney, David Tomaszewski, said he would appeal to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

A Navy investigation determined Ruggiero had a blood-alcohol content of 0.11 percent when he died and ruled the death accidental. At the time, the legal blood-alcohol limit for driving was 0.08 percent in Maryland and 0.10 percent in Pennsylvania.

Bomb found near Incirlik

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish authorities have discovered a bomb near a southern military base here, but the United States, a U.S. military official said Wednesday.

Private CNN-Turk television said the

bomb, containing 11 pounds of explosives, was found in the garden of a bar near the entrance of Incirlik Air Base.

The bomb, partially made of the explosive TNT, was defused by Turkish police late Tuesday, the station said.

A U.S. military official confirmed that a bomb was discovered but deferred further

questions to Turkish authorities.

The TV station said an explosion could have caused substantial damage in the area where a number of bars and cafes are located. It was unclear if the bomb could cause damage at the base.

From The Associated Press

1st ID seeks to renew anthrax vaccinations

Shots would be administered on voluntary basis

By MARC KAUFMAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has taken a major step toward reviving its controversial program of giving anthrax vaccine to servicemen, invoking emergency provisions of the Project BioShield Act that allow use of unapproved drugs and vaccines.

The Department of Defense said use of the vaccine will be voluntary for now, in contrast to the mandatory program that was blocked by a federal judge in October on the grounds that the vaccine was never properly cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

The special authorization follows determinations by the Defense Department and former Health and Human Services secretary Tommy Thompson that a formal anthrax emergency exists for troops stationed in some nations abroad.

"The Department's current intelligence community assessments establish that there is a heightened risk for U.S. military forces of attack with anthrax," a DOD official

said. He said the assessment applies to Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea in particular.

The emergency measure marks a dramatic turn in the Defense Department's long-running efforts to establish and maintain a mandatory vaccination program to protect against inhaled anthrax. Six former or current soldiers sued the department in 2003 over the program, and U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled last fall that the vaccinations were illegal and permanently enjoined their use.

In an order posted online Monday, however, acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said that after conferring with the National Institutes of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, he had authorized the use of the vaccine under the BioShield Act. The order set several conditions — that soldiers be educated about the vaccine and given the opportunity to refuse — but did not present any other obstacles to renewing the program.

Crawford wrote that the "known and potential benefits of the [vaccine] outweigh the known and potential risks," and that there is no adequate substitute for it.

A DOD official said Tuesday the issue will be revisited in Sullivan's courtroom before the vaccination program resumes. The process, he said, "could take some time."

That assessment was reinforced Tuesday by a lawyer for the six soldiers, who said he would go to court to oppose any effort to quickly revive the program. John Michels said the injunction remains in force despite the emergency authorization and despite the department's new willingness to accept a voluntary vaccination program.

Michels also argued that the emergency provisions of the BioShield Act were being misused. "The emergency here is that the department lost the case in court, and invoking an emergency on that basis is a terrible precedent," he said.

Anthrax is a deadly infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Early symptoms may resemble a common cold, but after several days the symptoms can progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Inhalation anthrax usually is fatal; a cutaneous form that affects the skin is less lethal.



SANDRA JONTZ/Stars and Stripes file photo

The Defense Department is moving toward reviving anthrax vaccinations for troops on a voluntary basis, citing emergency provisions of the Project BioShield Act. DOD intelligence says there is a heightened risk of attack with anthrax in Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea.

Michels said he was pleased by the department's change of position making the program voluntary, because that had been a central goal of the lawsuit. "But we're concerned that this may be a half-step that will later lead to a resumption of mandatory vaccinations," he said.

Asked if the Pentagon would like to return to a mandatory program, the spokesman left the possibility open.

He said a major consideration in accepting a voluntary program was that the emergency authorization is good for only six months unless the FDA extends it.

1st ID pays tribute to soldier killed at N.Y. bar

By STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Staff Sgt. Terrence Balkisson survived the rigors of Iraq, only to fall victim to the mean streets of New York.

Some friends from the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters company gathered Wednesday at the Leighton Barracks chapel in Würzburg to remember the supply sergeant, three weeks after a man gunned him down outside a bar in Brooklyn.

"He had arguably one of the most difficult jobs in the company," said his commanding officer, Capt. J.R. West, in comments from Iraq read at Wednesday's service. "Yet his answer to everything was 'Yes sir,'" and somehow he would complete the mission."

Balkisson grew up on the island of Trinidad, the oldest of 13 children. His family immigrated to New York when he was 16, and two years later he enlisted in the Army after earning his general

equivalency degree.

He served tours at Camp Casey, South Korea, and Fort Stewart, Ga., as a unit supply specialist before arriving at 1st ID. He deployed with the unit to Iraq last spring, where he worked at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit.

Balkisson had flown home to New York for his midyear leave just before Christmas. Just before he was scheduled to return to Iraq, he had attended a private sherry party at a Caribbean nightclub with two of his brothers, The New York Times reported.

About 5:20 a.m. outside the bar, according to news media ac-

counts, a man opened fire on Balkisson and one of his brothers — possibly in a fit of jealousy — after Balkisson accidentally bumped into the man's girlfriend. Two days later, a man turned himself in to police and was charged with second-degree murder.

The killing stunned both family and friends, who described



Balkisson

Balkisson as a devoted family man who would never seek trouble. His friends remembered his sunny, upbeat personality and always-present smile.

"Anyone who ever spent time with Staff Sgt. Balkisson was impacted by his kindness," West said in his eulogy. "No matter what the situation, after listening to [him], you couldn't help but laugh and smile."

Balkisson is survived by his wife, April; two children, Aaron and Jayda; and two stepchildren, Briana and Trevon, who live in Brooklyn. He was buried at a military cemetery in Marietta, Ga.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: eliewer@mail.strips.com

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Sanchez briefs families on 1st ID's return

By BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

VIJESSECK, Germany — A top U.S. military official in Europe toured several bases in Germany this week to talk with family members about the return of thousands of 1st Infantry Division soldiers this spring.

In visits to Würzburg, Bamberg and Vilseck on Monday and Tuesday, V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez talked with community members about the Army's program to reintroduce the unit's 12,000 deployed soldiers to life away from the war zone in Iraq. Last month he visited their other 1st ID locations, including Schweinfurt and Katterbach.

V Corps is the 1st ID's parent command. Sanchez spoke about the soldiers' seven-day mandatory readjustment program, the clock leave period and long-term services available to returning soldiers and their families, said Amy O'Connor, a family readiness adviser who attended the Bamberg meeting on Tuesday.

She said Sanchez didn't cover any topics that family members weren't already familiar with, but she

said it was reassuring to hear top officials pledge to take care of returning soldiers and make themselves available for questions.

"He answered a lot of questions and told us whatever the issue [that may arise], we'll work through it, which was nice to hear," O'Connor said.

Sanchez did not announce any specifics on the timing of the return for units in the 1st ID, said Capt. Jon Drake, rear detachment commander for the division's 82nd Engineer Battalion, other than to say "everything was on track."

Stars and Stripes was not allowed to attend a similar briefing Tuesday afternoon at Vilseck, and Army officials were tight-lipped about the meeting's specifics.

Three people who attended the meeting and were contacted by the newspaper said the general gave the impression that commanders were not for public consumption. All refused to comment further.

V Corps chief of media relations, Hilde Patton, said the Vilseck meeting was intended to be the same as the Bamberg and Würzburg briefings, but she said she could not provide information on its content, or on the appearance that its details were confidential.

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Building a fighting force for Afghanistan

Afghan army has made tremendous strides in the past three years, U.S. officials say

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — One soldier is satisfied, while another isn't so pleased with the way things have gone for him in western Afghanistan.

Both have concerns, mainly over money, career paths and family support. Yet each is proud to wear the uniform and appreciate the respect it engenders in their countrymen.

"I want to serve my country," said Pvt. Abdul Latif, who has been struggling with his new job. The two men — Samiullah, a sergeant who uses only one name, and Latif — don't work for Uncle Sam.

Rather, they are part of a grand undertaking known as the Afghanistan National Army. It's a work in progress, one that will pay huge dividends if Afghanistan and its allies — most notably the United States — can pull it off.

"There are many problems in the ANA," said Afghan army Brig. Gen. Fazil Ahmad Sayar, the chief of staff of the 207th Corps, the chief of staff of the 207th Corps, "but we hope [it] will get better in the future."

While often compared to its Iraqi army counterpart, the smaller Afghan force has taken tremendous strides in the past three years, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

The Afghan army still has some distance to cover, but the road of apprenticeship doesn't appear to be as long or as problematic, providing the United States and its allies continue the effort, dubbed Task Force Phoenix.

"Iraqis 'are not bred warriors like these guys,'" said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard Moorhead, the task force commander. Afghans "have the will to fight," he added, "and that's what makes them so good."

Or, so dangerous, if the armed Afghan is fighting against coalition forces.

Afghan fighters "won't hesitate to engage us," said Capt. Mike Berdy, a 25th Infantry Division company commander based near the Pakistan border.

But after two decades of fighting, many in Afghanistan seem weary, based on conversations with Afghans in the south, east and west.

"War has destroyed my coun-



SHANNA RODENBERG/U.S. Army

During urban warfare training, Staff Sgt. Greg Huffman shows members of the 2nd Brigade, Afghanistan National Army Central Corps the proper way to maneuver along a building. U.S. military advisors are working closely with Afghan forces in their homeland, helping to train about 20,000 soldiers. Eventually, Afghans will take over the training and continue to build their army.



"War has destroyed my country."

Sgt. Samiullah



"I want to serve my country."

Pvt. Abdul Latif

try," said Samiullah, 18, a platoon sergeant with the 207th Corps, headquartered in Herat.

"The Afghan people are happy," Khoshhal Murad, a United Nations interpreter in Kabul, said. "We have a new government, and a new army."

That new army now has roughly 18,000 combat soldiers, accord-

ing to Moorhead. More than 30,000 Afghans are in a three-step, 20-week training regimen that concludes with a unit assignment.

By September 2007, Afghan troop strength should reach the goal of 45,000.

Launched in June 2003, the task force started slowly, focused for the first year primarily on the

infantry. Recruits were tested and evaluated to determine if they were junior enlisted, senior enlisted or officer material. Additionally, U.S., French and British trainers kept an eye out for recruits who would one day take over as instructors.

About a year ago, the task force turned over basic-training duties to those handpicked candidates. Moorhead said the plan is to do the same this April with the command and staff school, which the French army oversees. Later this year, the British will hand their clipboard to Afghan instructors chosen to conduct the senior non-commissioned officer school.

Other countries assisting are Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Mongolia, New Zealand and Romania.

While the focus has been on combat forces, incrementally the coalition has been building up the support sector — such as training, logistics and communications — and it has been filling billets within the Afghanistan Ministry of Defense. By 2007, there will be about 3,000 troops and civilians assigned to the ministry and

The Afghan National Army at a glance

Current troop strength:	21,000
Troop strength in 2007:	45,000
Initial training:	20 weeks (basic and specialty training)
Basic pay:	\$70 (for a private); \$900 (for a general)
Future:	Will develop an air force to move troops around the country

roughly 11,000 to 22,000 on the support side.

In addition, various commands and agencies are being created, including a new military academy that will open its doors next month to 120 cadets.

"It's growing gradually," Moorhead said, "but it's growing with good people."

The ANA consists of five corps. The first was the 201st based in Kabul, which became fully staffed in May. In September, four regional corps came on line in Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat.

Other components are falling into place. Two months ago, the Afghans, with coalition input, drafted a military justice code.

"This army has to be sustainable because one of these days we will leave," Moorhead said.

Sayar, the chief of staff for the Herat Corps, is one of the Afghan soldiers helping to make that happen. Through an interpreter, he ticked off a list of issues his staff is addressing, from pay and leave to supply and medicine.

But the most significant thing Afghan military leaders can do, he said, is "to keep the promises made to recruits."

Such talk might be enough to keep Latif in the fold.

Based in Herat, Latif wants to serve, but said his \$160-a-month salary is barely enough to support his wife and six kids. A seasoned fighter, the 32-year-old driver/mechanic is weighing his options. He may join the quick reaction force — and nearly double his salary — or he may quit, go home to Kabul and open his own garage.

If the army offered adequate family housing and more money, said Latif, who fought the Taliban as a member of the Northern Alliance, "I would stay forever."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.esrps.osd.mil

For Afghan soldiers and officers, training never ends

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

HERAT, Afghanistan — When an Afghan soldier gets assigned to a regional command, his combat curriculum doesn't end.

From corps to company level, Task Force Phoenix is dispatching training teams to Afghan units in the field to instruct officers and enlisted personnel on the finer points of soldiering. The largest

contingent of trainers in western Afghanistan is 16 miles south of the provincial capital of Herat, and its commander is U.S. Army Col. Randy Smith.

"When we first came out here," Smith said, the Afghan "Central Corps [in Kabul] was the only game in town."

A few months prior to the October presidential election, the Afghan transitional government in Kabul began deploying the Afghanistan National Army to other regions. In Herat, the timing was most ad-

vantageous, because Afghan forces, a few trainers and the U.S. Army's 3rd Squad, 4th Cavalry Regiment, were on hand to help quell a Sept. 12 riot.

Smith, who arrived afterward, said since then his training team has had to adapt on the fly, mixing training with actual missions of the 207th Corps.

Like the other Afghan regional commands, save for Central Corps in Kabul, the 207th formally raised its flag in September. A year from now, Smith said, the

unit in Herat should have its full complement.

Adjacent to the current camp, work has begun on a \$63 million ANA base that will serve as the regional headquarters. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers envisions more than 100 buildings, including offices, barracks, a power plant, wastewater facility, hospital and sports field.

"It's not often you get to make history," said Joe Haugen, the resident engineer.

SEE TRAINING ON PAGE 7

'Hostage' might be hoax

Toy maker says 'kidnapped GI' looks like action figure

Editor's note: A different version of this story appeared in some of Wednesday's editions. The updated hoax information was not included in all editions because of *Stripes'* press times. We apologize to readers who are seeing the story for a second time.

BY MONTE MORIN
Los Angeles Times

A militant group's claim that it had kidnapped a U.S. soldier in Iraq and planned to behead him was suspected of being a hoax Tuesday, after a California toy manufacturer said photos of the purported captive on an insurgent Web site appeared to show one of its collectible dolls.

A group calling itself the Mujahideen Brigades posted a photograph that appeared to show a stern-faced U.S. soldier sitting at gunpoint before a black banner with Arabic script. The posting called the soldier "John Adam."

U.S. military authorities said aspects of the photograph raised doubts: The soldier's vest, for instance, resembled no such equip-

ment issued by the Army, and the claim on the Web site about the kidnapping appeared to contain misspellings. Nevertheless, they asked for a full accounting of military personnel in Iraq.

"No units have reported anyone missing," Staff Sgt. Nick Minicci of the military's press office in Baghdad told The Associated Press.

In the grainy photograph, the figure appears dressed in desert camouflage and leans stiffly against a concrete wall with his hands behind him. He wears a bulky vest and green kneepads. The barrel of an American automatic rifle is pointed at his head, but no one is pictured holding the weapon.

An executive for Dragon Models USA Inc. said the soldier looked exactly like a foot-tall G.I. Joe-type doll the company manufactured for sale at U.S. bases in Kuwait.

"This looks like our doll," said Liam Cusack, a company spokesman. "We don't want to say 100 percent that it is our doll, but it does bear a striking resemblance."

We're hoping that this is actually a hoax."

Cusack said the doll appeared to be the black version of its "Cody" action figure, one of several thousand sold to U.S. military bases in Kuwait about three years ago. The dolls are minutely detailed and frequently used in dioramas of war scenes.

Cusack said he was alerted to the photograph Tuesday morning by a retailer who saw the photo on a news Web site. Cusack said he had not had contact with the U.S. military about the matter.

"I don't even know how to contact them," Cusack said.

If in fact the photo is a hoax, it would be the second such sham that has received widespread attention in the media.

In August, television stations around the world broadcast a video of a 22-year-old San Francisco man who faked his own beheading. The man, Benjamin Vanderford, said he had circulated the video to show how easy it was to fabricate execution videos.



Cody, or John Adam?



Staff Sgt. Greg Huffman gives directions to members of the Afghan army's 2nd Brigade on what to do once their team has breached a doorway.

SHANNA ROSENBERG
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Training: U.S. troops teach by example

TRAINING, FROM PAGE 6

"It's basically a city for 4,000 soldiers. Pretty cool, huh?"

Back at the temporary facility, Smith and his deputy, Lt. Col. Bert Owens, talked of the challenges of transforming a band of tough but unpolished warriors.

"We are advisers," Owens said.

"One of the toughest tests is changing a centralized mind-set that devalued empowerment, initiative and improvisation. Owens likened it to a sandlot football team that can flawlessly execute plays except in the dirt, but gets caught flat-footed when its play breaks down.

Another flaw can be a lack of preparation and prevention.

On Dec. 31, the trainers left their compound for a meeting with an Afghan National Police commander in Shindand, a town 60 miles away. The Afghan commander climbed into his vehicle and joined the convoy. A few miles down the road, a car on the commander's car went flat.

Smith said he uses instances such as that as training tools. In this case, he deftly emphasized to his Afghan charges the need to inspect vehicles the day before a trip.

Sometimes he'll say very little, preferring to lead by example. One day, prior to a mission, Smith had one of his soldiers haul a table outside in front of the Afghan house nearby. One by one, the Americans performed a functions check on their M-16s. The Afghans watched from afar, and now often go through the same routine.

Other lessons are taught over time.

Eventually, Afghan soldiers will assume every role in the army, including paying troops. But in the beginning at Herat, it was Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Kelly. On that first payday, Kelly sat at a table and a queue formed outside his door. Suddenly, there was commotion and shouting.

The Afghan officers "just pushed the [enlisted soldiers] out of the way because they were officers," Smith recalled.

Kelly coolly gathered his things and walked out.

The Afghan officers were agitated, perhaps because an enlisted soldier upstaged them. Perhaps it was because the soldier was black and, in the past, Afghans have fought many battles along ethnic lines.

Owens, who is black, said he, Smith and other members of the Regional Command Assistance Group-West, used that instance and others to show how the cultural diversity of the U.S. military is an advantage.

"We point that out to them," Owens said, "so that they realize you've got to work as a team."

Senior Afghan leaders back in Kabul have grasped that concept. The Afghan Ministry of Defense is consciously building battalions along ethnically mixed lines.

The issue of ethnicity in the Afghan army was posed separately to two soldiers. Both soldiers looked somewhat perplexed when it was raised.

"These things are in the past," said a platoon sergeant named Samullah. "We are one army. There are no [ethnic] divisions."

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Alawi: Elections a blow to terrorists

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The success of the past weekend's elections dealt a major blow to insurgents, though they are likely to continue their attacks for some months before they are defeated, Iraq's interim prime minister said Wednesday.

Abdul Alawi said that following Sunday's elections, activity by insurgents dropped sharply but it is still too early to conclude whether that trend will continue.

"They might be reorganizing themselves and changing their plans," Alawi said of the rebels. "The coming days and weeks will show whether this retreat will continue or whether it is tactical because of the strike against al Qaeda," Alawi told Al-Iraqiya television.

"I don't know to what happened is a decrease [in attacks] that will continue or will escalate, but the final outcome is that it is a failure. They will continue for months but this [insurgency] will end," Alawi said in a live broadcast.

"These dark forces will not be able to succeed."

He said that authorities had identified the location of some insurgent bases outside Iraq "but I cannot mention them now." He did not elaborate.

It was not clear if Alawi was referring to Syria, Iraq and U.S. officials have repeatedly said that insurgents in Iraq have received support from members of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime who are said to be based in Syria.

Earlier in the day, Alawi, hosted a meeting of leaders of 16 of the country's provincial political factions Wednesday, his office said in a statement.

The leaders agreed to pursue the participation of all political, ethnic and religious groups in the new government, the statement said.

Sunni group says vote illegitimate

Police chief in Mosul vows to 'wipe out' Iraq insurgents

BY SAMEER N. YACUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's leading Sunni Muslim clerics said Wednesday the country's landmark elections lacked legitimacy because large numbers of Sunnis did not participate in the balloting, which the religious leaders had asked them to boycott.

Emboldened by the elections, which U.S. and Iraqi authorities cited as a victory for democracy, the police chief in Mosul demanded the insurgents hand over weapons within two weeks or he would "wipe out" anyone giving them shelter.

Large numbers of majority Shiite Muslims and Kurds participated in Sunday's election for a new National Assembly and regional parliaments. Although no results or turnout figures have been released, U.S. officials say participation appeared much lower in Sunni areas where the insurgency is strongest.

The low turnout has been blamed variously on the clerics' own boycott call and on fears of insurgent reprisals against those who voted.

In its first statement since the balloting, the Association of Muslim Scholars said the vote lacked legitimacy because of low Sunni participation. The association months ago urged Sunnis to shun the polls because of the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops, and insurgents threatened to kill anyone who voted.

Iraqi officials have acknowledged voting problems, including ballot shortages in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul, which have substantial Sunni populations and which also may have contributed to a low Sunni turnout.

The level of insurgent violence has appeared to drop sharply after the election — similar to a short-duration decline in attacks which occurred after the transfer



U.S. troops on Wednesday started removing some of the many concrete roadblocks set up in Baghdad for Election Day. An influential group is questioning the legitimacy of the election because of low voter turnout among Sunnis.

of sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government in June.

It is unclear whether the drop is due to disillusionment within insurgent ranks, the effects of the stringent pre-election security measures that are being slowly relaxed, or whether the militants have paused to reassess their strategy in light of the ballot.

With many Sunnis having stayed away, a ticket endorsed by the Shiite clergy is expected to gain the biggest number of seats in the 275-member National Assembly, followed by the Kurds and a list headed by interim Prime Minister Ayad Alawi, a secular Shiite.

Shiites comprise an estimated 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people, and Shiite candidates were expected to fare best regardless of Sunni turnout. However, low Sunni participation was believed to have reduced the totals of other tickets.

Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the Shi-

ite Muslim who heads the ticket expected to have won the largest number of parliamentary seats, indicated in a Wednesday interview with The Associated Press that his group wants the post of prime minister in Iraq's new government.

Al-Hakim, a Shiite cleric with close ties to Iran, said representatives of all Iraqi groups should participate in writing the new constitution.

In its statement, the association said the election "lacks legitimacy because a large portion of these people who represent many spectra have boycotted it."

As a result, the group said the new leadership lacked a mandate to draft a new constitution and should be considered a temporary administration.

"We make it clear to the United

Nations and the international community that they should not get involved in granting this election legitimacy because such a move will open the gates of evil," the statement said.

"We are going to respect the choice of those who voted and we will consider the new government will have a 'quite low' in Iraq's vast Anbar province, which includes the rebellious cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

He said that based on anecdotal accounts, turnout in three other provinces with large Sunni Arab populations was slightly higher but not more than 50 percent.

In Mosul, police Gen. Mohammed Ahmed al-Jubouri offered amnesty to insurgents who handed over their weapons within two weeks but promised tough action if they did not. In an interview with the provincial television station, al-Jubouri threatened to wipe out any village that would hide weapons after the two-week period and shell any safe haven for the insurgents."

With the threat of election violence past, the U.S. Army handed over control Wednesday of several combat outposts to Iraqi security forces on the west side of Mosul.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has been tense since insurgents rose up in November in support of rebels under siege in Fallujah, west of Baghdad. The entire 5,000-member police force deserted before U.S. and Iraqi troops regained control.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,434 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,096 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count includes four military civilians and is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,296 U.S. military members have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defense Department tally released Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. James H. Miller IV, 22, Cincinnati; killed Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, after an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, South Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Lindsey T. James, 23, Urbana, Mo.; killed Saturday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his patrol; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ Army Capt. Stephen A. Castellano, 21, Long Beach, Calif.; died Friday of a non-combat related injury in Mosul, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The following three soldiers were killed Friday in Iraq, when an explosive detonated after striking a nearby vehicle. They were assigned to the Army National Guard, 108th Engineer Battalion, 256th Brigade Combat Team, New Roads, La.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan R. Reed, 25, Oklaheima, La.
■ Army Spc. Michael S. Evans II, 22, Marrero, La.
■ Army Spc. Christopher J. Ramsey, 20, Batchelor, La.

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IN THE STATES

Purple salute

Lawmaker to wear ink on finger during State of the Union address

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. congressman from Louisiana is calling on his fellow lawmakers to show solidarity with Iraqi voters by attending the State of the Union with purple-ink-stained fingers.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, the son of immigrants from India, is planning to dip a finger in purple ink before President Bush's State of the Union speech Wednesday.

Bush is delivering his speech to a joint session of Congress and a nationwide television audience three days after Iraq's first free national elections in decades.

Iraqis who participated in Sunday's elections had a finger stained with purple ink to prove they had voted.

In a letter to be circulated Wednesday among fellow lawmakers, Jindal, a Louisiana Republican, said he would have ink available for anyone attending the speech who wanted to make a gesture of support for Iraqis and "people throughout the world who seek freedom."

Bush was to deliver his speech Wednesday on Capitol Hill, already the scene of a testy, partisan debate over his plan to offer private retirement accounts as part of the government pension plan, known as Social Security.

His ideas for changing the 70-year-old Social Security program scored just two sentences in last year's State of the Union speech.

This year, it's the signature topic of his 40-minute speech before Congress and a nationally televised audience.

Bush will devote the first half of his 40-minute speech to domestic matters and the second half to international issues. As for the latter, Bush will say that the trio of elections in Iraq, Afghanistan and in Palestinian territories offer evidence that democracy is expanding. And he'll reaffirm his commitment to using diplomacy to deter the nuclear ambitions of North



AP

An Iraqi man shows off his ink-stained finger after casting his ballot at a polling station in Jir Dila, Iraq, Sunday. Louisiana Rep. Bobby Jindal plans to show his solidarity with Iraqis by staining his figure purple for the State of the Union.

Korea and Iran.

On Iraq, Bush will encourage the international community to support the Iraqis following their historic election last weekend, urge the international community to help train Iraqi security forces and make the struggling nation a model for democratic reform in the Middle East.

Although he will propose that families of U.S. troops killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and war zones receive an extra \$250,000 in government payments, Bush is not expected to outline any exit strategy for U.S. troops as Democrats in Congress are demanding.

Punxsutawney Phil disappoints again with his prediction

BY DAN NEPHIN

The Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Each February, Americans weary of the cold and wintry weather look to an unlikely forecaster: a chubby groundhog known as Punxsutawney Phil.

The news Wednesday wasn't good. Phil saw his shadow, which in the American tradition suggests another six weeks of winter.

He delivered the prediction after he was pulled from his burrow in an oak stump by a top-hatted handler, eliciting boos from the thousands who had gathered in the cold.

"He's only the messenger!" one of the members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club — the volunteer group in charge of Phil and the town's Groundhog Day festivities — reminded the crowd braving the frigid weather.

The tradition that began in 1886 stems from the Christian holiday of Candlemas, and the belief that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow, winter will last another six weeks.

If there's no shadow, spring will come early.

Whether Phil sees his shadow is beside the point, however.

Organizers of the event and the festivals, concerts and craft fair in this town 65 miles northeast of

Pittsburgh say Groundhog Day is all about the fun — and a chance to shake winter's chilly cloak.

An energetic crowd of about 2,000 people were already assembled by 3:30 a.m. Wednesday.



Phil

Most were bundled up against the cold, but at least one young woman braved the weather in a bikini top.

Nikki Wehrmann and her 9-year-old daughter, Arianne, had on layer upon layer as they huddled over coffee and hot chocolate.

Arianne was taking the day off from school to see Phil, her mother said. They live in nearby DuBois.

"We considered this an educational purpose," said Wehrmann, who told her daughter about the history of Groundhog Day and plans to have Arianne do a project on the event.

Since the tradition began, Phil saw his shadow for the 95th time. He hasn't seen his shadow 14 times, nine years have he not seen of the outcome, according to the Punxsutawney club.

Gonzales support

WASHINGTON — Confirming Alberto Gonzales as the new attorney general "will resonate throughout the Hispanic community" despite Democratic complaints that he is connected to the Bush administration's policies on foreign detainees, Republicans said Wednesday.

GOP senators continued to praise Gonzales through Senate speeches the day before his confirmation vote in that chamber to become the first Hispanic attorney general. Democrats have already said they won't filibuster the White House counsel and former Texas Supreme Court judge, although as many as 30 could vote against his confirmation Thursday.

Clinton opposition

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Remote as the possibility may be, former Republican Senator Jesse Helms wants to make sure former President Clinton does not lead the United Nations after Secretary-General Kofi Annan retires next year.

In a fund-raising letter, Helms invokes the specter of Clinton one day leading the United Nations. The letter contains a petition asking President Bush to "revoke all efforts by Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and every other liberal in Congress to push for Bill Clinton to become Secretary-General of the United Nations."

From The Associated Press

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Space Shuttle Columbia widows Evelyn Husband, left, and Sandy Anderson get their first look at a memorial dedicated to the Columbia astronauts on Tuesday in downtown Houston.

Rough seastorm touring students

BY JEANNETTE J. LEE
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Lauren Osgood watched as waves and flocks of sea spray lapped at the glass on the door. But there was nothing to hold onto.

Computers, library books and furniture crashed to the floor and were flung against the walls as the ship leaned like a massive mer-mon from port to starboard and back again.

"We were right by the exit doors on either side, and so you could like see the waves on the doors, which freaked me out," said Osgood, 21, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who was enrolled in the Semester at Sea program that uses the research ship Explorer as a floating classroom.

"That's kind of when I began to panic because you could see the water and realize that you were tipping that much," she said.

The 591-foot Explorer limped into Honolulu Harbor on Monday for repairs and inspections after passengers endured more than a week's worth of rough seas.

None of the students suffered injuries beyond bruises, but one crew member suffered a broken leg and another a broken arm.

The ship's seasawing motion made sleeping difficult, so many of the nearly 700 students were awake when a wave shattered the glass on the ship's bridge and three of the four engines shut down early last Wednesday.

The wave also short-circuited the electronic instruments used to steer the ship, forcing the crew to use a compass and navigational charts instead.

The incident occurred about 650 miles south of Adak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands and about 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage.

BY PAM EASTON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Evelyn Husband couldn't get her son, Matthew, to come to breakfast. She found him staring at a clock instead.

"He was watching the clock and remembering when exactly it happened," the widow said Tuesday, referring to space shuttle Columbia's disintegration over Texas shortly before 8 a.m. two years ago. "This is the first time he's done that, but he's 9 now. He was 7 when it happened."

Matthew's father, commander Rick Husband, and six other astronauts died as Columbia returned from a 16-day science and research mission on Feb. 1, 2003.

On the second anniversary of the tragedy, Houston Mayor Bill White and other city officials dedicated a granite memorial in a downtown park to honor the astronauts. A similar tribute to the seven astronauts who died in the 1986 Challenger disaster is nearby.

Husband, wearing a necklace with a shuttle emblem she got from her husband, said she still deals with the tragedy every day.

"There is such a desire in my heart to return to normal

and yet this is something we are never going to be able to forget," she said.

Johnson Space Center Director Gen. Jefferson D. Howell Jr. said it was fitting that a Columbia memorial was placed in Houston. "As most of us in Houston know, the first word spoken from the surface of the moon was Houston," he said.

He said Columbia's final mission was a wonderful success because "what they accomplished was incredible. They just didn't make it all the way home."

Investigators determined the shuttle was brought down by a hole in the leading edge of its left wing caused when a piece of insulating foam broke off and struck the wing during liftoff. The searing gases of re-entry entered the gap and melted the wing from the inside out, leading to the breakup of the orbiter.

The loss is still painful, said Jon Clark, a NASA neurologist who was married to astronaut Laurel Clark, a member of Columbia's final crew. "It's not the searing heart ripped out of your chest, it's more just a chronic ache," he said.

Elsewhere in Texas, residents laid out roses during a remembrance ceremony in Hemphill, a small town where shuttle debris was found after Columbia broke apart.

Report criticizes MTV for 'sleaze'

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A conservative advocacy group that focuses on media decency issues slammed the cable network MTV on Tuesday for "incessant" sex in its youth-oriented programming.

MTV viewers, many of whom are teenagers, are exposed to higher levels of sex, violence and other adult behaviors than what is found during the final prime-time hour of broadcast television, the Parents Television Council said in a report released Tuesday.

Council researchers watched more than 170 hours of the channel's spring-break coverage during one week last March and logged every instance of sexual content, violence, and drug and alcohol use.

Their report, "MTV Smut Peddlers: Targeting Kids with Sex, Drugs and Alcohol," found that MTV aired 58 sexual scenes per hour throughout the day. By comparison, the group's study of sex on broadcast television found 5.8 sexual instances during the last hour of prime time, when broadcast standards are loosened slightly because children are presumed to have gone to bed.

MTV spokeswoman Jeanne Kedes called the report "unfair and inaccurate," noting that the network had received Peabody and Emmy awards for programming such as "Fight for Your Right," which focused on issues such as tolerance and discrimination, and "Choose or Lose," which encouraged young people to vote.

Jet skids into building

TETERBORO, N.J. — A corporate jet hurtled off the end of an airport runway Wednesday while attempting to take off, speeding across a highway and striking two cars before slamming into a warehouse. About 15 people were injured, one critically, but nobody was killed, officials said.

The injured included at least two people in the cars, officials said. Eleven people were on the plane, the most seriously injured was the pilot, who suffered a broken leg, said officials, who did not disclose the identities of the passengers or crew.

"I think everybody at this point is extremely lucky and fortunate," said acting Gov. Richard J. Codey.

One witness said a pilot crawled out of the wreckage and told him the crew lost control of the plane.

It was headed for Midway Airport in Chicago when the accident happened.

From The Associated Press

Study finds cell use by young drivers slows reaction times, increases risk

BY LEON D'SOUSA
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Talking on a cell phone makes you drive like a retiree — even if you're only a teen, a study shows.

A report from the University of Utah says when motorists between 18 and 25 talk on cell phones, they drive like elderly people — moving and reacting more slowly and increasing their risk of accidents.

"If you put a 20-year-old driver behind the wheel with a cell phone, his reaction times are the same as a 70-year-old driver," said David Strayer, a University of Utah psychology professor and principal author of the study. "It's like an aging."

And it doesn't matter whether the phone is hand-held or hands-free, he said. Any activity requiring a driver to "actively be part of a conversation" likely will impair driving abilities, Strayer said.

In fact, motorists who talk on cell phones are more impaired than are drunken drivers with blood-alcohol levels exceeding 0.08, Strayer and colleague Frank Drews, an assistant professor of psychology, found during research conducted in 2003.

In Virginia, the Senate on Friday passed a bill that would ban motorists younger than 18 from talking on cellular phones while driving. Sen. Jay O'Brien said the legislation would make Virginia the first state to ban minors from using mobile phones while driving a car.

The cell phone and teens study appears in this winter's issue of Human Factors, the quarterly journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

Strayer said they found that when 18-to-25-year-olds were placed in a driving simulator and talked on a cellular phone, they reacted to brake lights from a car in front of them as slowly as 65- to 74-year-olds who were not using a cell phone.

The study found that drivers who talked on cell phones were 18 percent slower in braking and took 17 percent longer to regain the speed they lost when they braked.

The new research questions the effectiveness of cell phone usage laws in states such as New York and New Jersey, which only ban the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

It's not so much the handling of a phone, Strayer said, but the fact that having a conversation is a mental process that can drain concentration.

IN THE WORLD

Pope stabilized, resting in hospital

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II had a restless night and his condition stabilized after he was rushed to a hospital with breathing trouble, but he will spend several more days at the clinic to recover from the flu, the Vatican said Wednesday.

Around the world, Roman Catholics paused to pray for the health of the 84-year-old pontiff.

Tests showed John Paul II's heart and respiration were normal, and he got several hours' rest after being taken by ambulance to the hospital Tuesday night, papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said.

The pontiff was running a slight fever from the flu and would spend "a few more days" at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic for treatment of respiratory problems, he said.

"There is no cause for alarm," Navarro-Valls said.

The pope has Parkinson's disease, and Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragán, the Vatican's top health official, told Associated Press Television News that the slumping

pontiff's inability to hold his back up straight has left his lungs and diaphragm in a crushed position.

Navarro-Valls insisted the pope had never lost consciousness, and he did not need a tracheotomy to insert a tube into his windpipe to help him breathe. He said John Paul participated from his hospital bed in a Mass celebrated by his secretary in the room.

Navarro-Valls characterized Tuesday night's hurried admission to a special papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital as "mainly precautionary." Trying to appear reassuring, Navarro-Valls even joked at one point that John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital because "the subway doesn't go that far."

Navarro-Valls, who has a medical degree, told The Associated Press early Wednesday the pope had the flu and acute laryngeal tracheitis — inflammation of the windpipe — and suffered a "certain difficulty in breathing." He denied Italian news reports that John Paul had a CAT scan at the hospital and was taken to intensive care.

In a separate statement, the Vatican said the pope also experienced a "larynx spasm crisis."

The spasms likely were a complication from the respiratory illness the pope has had. Experts said it was possible his Parkinson's disease, which makes muscle control difficult, made it harder for him to breathe.

The first sign of the frail pope's illness came Sunday, when he kept clearing his throat during a 20-minute appearance at his studio window, thrown wide open on one of Rome's most bone-chilling days in years so he could release a pair of doves symbolizing peace into St. Peter's Square.

The flu has been sweeping through Italy since December, and the Rome region has been among the hardest-hit. The Vatican declined to say whether the pontiff had a flu shot, but a Vatican official said it was "probable" because all employees of the Holy See were offered them.

From John Paul's native Poland to Manila to Moscow to the United States, the faithful gathered to pray for his recovery.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Americans' "thoughts and prayers are with the Holy Father."



Henryk Zbolina, with his grandson Olaf, passes by a statue of Pope John Paul II in Warsaw, Poland, on Wednesday.

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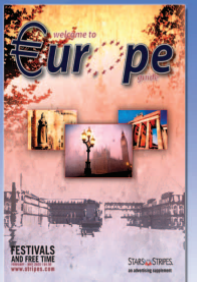
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STARS & STRIPES
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Nepal cabinet named

KATMANDU, Nepal — King Gyanendra announced a 10-member Cabinet dominated by his own supporters on Wednesday, one day after he dismissed Nepal's government, declared emergency rule and virtually cut his nation off from the world. An official later said the new government would reach out to the country's Maoist rebels to renew peace talks.

Dozens of politicians have been arrested and many more have gone underground to avoid detention, an opposition figure said, as extra riot police and soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital, Katmandu, where civil liberties were severely curtailed.

Gyanendra will head the newly appointed Cabinet, state radio said in a report that gave few details other than the new body's members.

The king on Tuesday sacked Deuba's interim government, accusing it of failing to hold parliamentary elections or control the Maoist insurgency and pledging to do both himself within three years.

Midwest peace summit

JERUSALEM — The Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Wednesday accepted Egypt's bold offer to host a long-awaited summit between them next week, raising hopes of a breakthrough in Midwest peace efforts.

The Egyptian president and Jordan's king will host the summit on Tuesday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, intended to shore up tentative gains between Israelis and Palestinians. The third-party presence "will

be insurance of success for a summit," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

In recent days, there has been increasing bickering between Israelis and Palestinians over what issues to raise in an Abbas-Ariel Sharon meeting, and disagreements remain over the scope of a Palestinian prisoner release, the fate of Palestinian fugitives and a West Bank troop redeployment. At times, it appeared the summit could be put off.

U.S. security support

WASHINGTON — Eager to help Midwest peacemaking and combat Palestinian poverty, President Bush is preparing to boost U.S. support for upgrading security forces and for the Palestinian economy.

Training needs to be improved, and for peacemaking with the goal to have a chance to succeed the Palestinians need more jobs and better facilities. Bush administration officials have concluded as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepares to visit the region early next week.

Edward Abington, former U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem who is a consultant to the Palestinians, estimated Wednesday that Bush and Rice were prepared to be generous in dealing with a "financial crisis" on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Abington, in an interview, said \$50 million already approved by Congress, would be devoted to programs to create jobs, and that up to \$150 million would be sought from Congress in the current fiscal year for general assistance to the Palestinians.

From The Associated Press

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Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, bottom right, listens as the Basque regional president, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, speaks in the Spanish Parliament in Madrid on Tuesday. The Basque government called an emergency meeting Wednesday, after their autonomy proposal was rejected.

Basque officials call for urgent meeting

The Associated Press

BILBAO, Spain — The Basque government called an emergency meeting Wednesday, a day after the Spanish Parliament rejected a proposal to grant the region autonomy bordering on independence, with the prospect of early elections seen as high on the agenda.

Officials declined to disclose what would be discussed in the afternoon session. But for days politicians have suggested the Basque government, aware that the proposal would be defeated in Madrid, might hit back by calling early elections in the region.

Such a step could be aimed at harnessing Basque nationalist anger over the plan's rejection, fo-

cus the election campaign on the call for more autonomy in the hope of strengthening the position of nationalists who had drafted the proposal.

The speaker of the Basque Parliament, Juan Maria Atutxa, said the decision would be made sometime this month, but suggested it was not imminent.

However, Jose Blanco, a senior member of Spain's ruling Socialist Party, said the Basque government would probably announce early elections on Wednesday.

Blanco played down the impact of such a move. He noted that elections had to be called by May 15, and voting can be held only 30 days after elections are announced, giving the Basque government a margin of only a few weeks.

Experts say diseases kill 1.3 million kids each year

BY TERESA CERIOJANO

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — More than 1 million children around the world die each year from three diseases that cause diarrhea, pneumonia and neurological disabilities but little is being done to prevent them, health experts said Wednesday.

More than 3.5 million children under the age of five die yearly from rotavirus, pneumococcal pneumonia and Japanese encephalitis, all of which can be prevented by vaccinations, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization said.

Most of the deaths are in developing countries, about half of them in Asia, said Hans Kvist of GAVI's pneumococcal disease program.

He said the scale of the prob-

lem dwarfs the Asian tsunami that struck 11 countries on Dec. 26, 2004, killing between 158,000 to 178,000 people. With estimates of up to 142,000 missing, more than a quarter-million people may have been lost.

"It actually translates to four tumors annually happening and it is a continuous disaster going on and nobody notices, which is something we have to change," Kvist said.

Kvist said awareness of the diseases among decision makers "is basically non-existent."

John Wecker, director of GAVI's Rotavirus Vaccine Program, said standard diarrhea treatments do not work against the virus, which causes vomiting, fever and rapid dehydration. Only vaccines can work against the disease, he said.

Japanese encephalitis, a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, has been a "a silent killer" in Asia and is now the leading cause of disability the region after polio, said Dr. Julie Jacobson, director of the encephalitis program of PATH, a U.S.-based organization working for global health.

Wecker said a number of financiers, including the Norwegian and British governments and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, recently committed \$3 billion to distribute vaccines for free to children in poor countries.

They also plan to increase awareness about the diseases and encourage manufacturers to increase supplies in developing countries.

The health experts are in Manila to update regional World Health Organization officials on their projects.

Nuclear investigation

KIEV, Ukraine — A senior lawmaker on Wednesday called for Ukraine's prosecutor-general to investigate alleged sales of nuclear-capable cruise missiles to Iran and China in violation of international nonproliferation treaties.

The call, made in a letter by Hirhory Omelchenko, follows allegations he made in a letter to new President Viktor Yushchenko.

Omelchenko is a parliament member allied with Prime Minister-designate Yulia Tymoshenko and is a reserve colonel in Ukraine's intelligence service.

Yushchenko has promised a thorough investigation of corruption and misdeeds that allegedly flourished during his predecessor's 10 years as president.

Kabul brothel industry

KABUL, Afghanistan — Police raided five suspected brothels in the Afghan capital and said they would deport more than 25 Chinese women after the government ordered a crackdown on Kabul's growing vice

industry, an official said Wednesday.

Abdul Jabar Sabat, a legal adviser to the Interior Ministry, said five out of 17 establishments checked on Tuesday were brothels masquerading as Chinese restaurants.

Dozens of bars, restaurants and guesthouses have sprung up around Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

Germany terror raid

BERLIN — German police carried out a series of raids Wednesday against individuals suspected of providing financial and other support to Islamic extremist activities outside the country, authorities said.

Thirty-three apartments and four businesses were searched in the early morning raids centered in the southern state of Bavaria, police said.

The action was directed primarily against 24 people suspected of supporting Islamic extremist activities.

The individuals were aged 20 to 66, and all are legal residents in Germany, police said.

From The Associated Press

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Ramsey, plastic is artificial wealth

Acliviser wrote the book on living a debt-free life

BY RICH COPELEY

Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON, Ky. — In a micro-verse society, Dave Ramsey recommends patience.

For a material world, he advocates modest living to build wealth and then giving a lot of it away.

"We're not going to advocate something that doesn't work just to sell a book," Ramsey says. "Sacrifice and money is what works."

For cutting against the grain and defying convention, the Nashville, Tenn.-based financial adviser has earned two appearances on the New York Times' best-seller list, profiles on "60 Minutes" and in Guideposts magazine, and a radio show now heard on more than 200 stations in the States.

On the show, Ramsey advocates debt-free life and fields calls from listeners who've made five-, even six-figure mistakes.

He knows how they feel. "I've done stupid, and I know what stupid looks like, and paid stupid tax," Ramsey says.

What he did, specifically, was become a millionaire by age 26 by buying real estate. But he did it by going \$4 million into debt.

When the loans were called in after the bank was sold, he lost ev-

erything by age 30. In a vignette in his second Times best-seller, "The Total Money Makeover," Ramsey recalls having a Jaguar in his driveway that wouldn't run because he couldn't afford to fix it.

Going too deep into debt is something Ramsey says most people are doing today, and while he doesn't forecast a national financial upheaval, he does see families enduring their own "Great Depressions."

"When Joe and Suzie Wal-Mart are 30 days of a job layoff from being repo'd, 90 days from being foreclosed on and their best hope for retirement is Social Security," he says. "This isn't a plan," Ramsey says.

"The Total Money Makeover" is Ramsey's step-by-step prescription for financial health and wealth.

"Debt is the most aggressively marketed product in our culture," Ramsey says. "There were 5.2 billion debit cards issued in the last year; 78 percent of the cars that leave the lot will be 'fleece'd.' Ramsey's term for lease.

One of the first steps in Ramsey's money makeover is cutting up credit cards. Well, you could also shoot them, pure them or run them over with a lawn



LEXINGTON (KY.) HERALD-LEADER/NT

"Debt is the most aggressively marketed product in our culture," says Dave Ramsey, a Nashville, Tenn.-based financial adviser and radio host who created what he calls The Total Money Makeover system.

mower. Ramsey regularly gets calls from people who want to do an on-air "plastectomy" in a variety of ways.

He tells people to go to a cash-based lifestyle, so as not to live beyond their means.

The makeover includes steps that involve building up cash reserves for emergencies, paying off debts ranging from credit cards to home mortgages and making investments such as mutual funds.

"Debt ties up your greatest wealth-building tool, which is your money," Ramsey says.

People who have succeeded in freeing themselves from debt by following the plan get to celebrate on air weekly. "I'm free!" as Ramsey plays Mel Gibson's William Wallace shouting "Freedom!" in "Braveheart."

In addition to the money makeover, Ramsey also has created Financial Peace University, a

course used by many groups, particularly churches.

There's a strong Christian undercurrent to Ramsey's show, including bumper music from Christian pop acts such as Jars of Clay and the daily exhortation, "The only way to financial peace is to walk daily with the Prince of Peace."

"The part of who I am," Ramsey says of the Christian content of his work. "It's not because I want to be a televangelist and wish I had more hair. It's simple: Personal finance is 80 percent behavior, it's only 20 percent head knowledge. To ignore the spiritual in a behavior problem is very naive."

Ramsey also regularly says debt is not biblical. "It's not a sin, it's not, 'You're going to hell because you used a MasterCard,'" he says. "But every time it's mentioned in the Bible, it's a negative mention — you're a slave, it's a curse, you're stupid."

While it's not marketed like "Get rich in 30 days" schemes, Ramsey's prescription has wealth as its endgame. And one of the greatest things about wealth, he says, is giving money away.

"There's only so much stuff you can gather up," Ramsey says. "The most fun you can have with money is giving it. It's the blast."

He cites a friend who is a multimillionaire who annually goes to a toy store at Christmas with his kids, buys a tractor-trailer load of bicycles and gives them to children in a poor neighborhood.

Another friend, he says, gave four-figure checks to workers heading off to help victims of the Asian tsunami so they could buy supplies.

Of course, Ramsey gives away a lot of advice, which he finds deeply gratifying.

"I'll get people who call in and say things like, 'You saved my marriage,'" Ramsey says. "Well, I didn't save your marriage — the information did."

"I'm just able to present the information in a fun, entertaining way, and it's rewarding."

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES								
	52-week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High
10,551.54	9,316.88		Dow Jones Industrials	10,551.54	+42.29	+29	-2.14	+4.5
3,823.96	2,743.46		Dow Jones Transportation	3,695.73	+17.25	+50	+3.02	+26.6
343.46	259.08		Dow Jones International	345.40	+1.94	+50	+5.16	+26.6
2,727.81	2,345.08		Nasdaq Composite	2,727.81	+56.73	+36	+1.17	+28.6
1,437.46	1,150.74		Amex Index	1,433.16	+4.77	+33	+0.41	+8.1
2,191.60	1,750.82		Nasdaq Composite	2,068.70	+62.29	+39	+4.91	+12.0
1,217.98	1,060.72		S&P 500	1,188.41	+29.57	+80	+1.85	+47.9
666.99	548.29		S&P MidCap	650.82	+4.85	+75	+1.28	+18.0
656.11	315.90		Russell 2000	628.14	+4.12	+66	+3.80	+8.46
1,024.92	824.82		S&P 500	1,024.92	+29.57	+80	+1.85	+47.9

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In vote, Iraqis chose freedom

To U.S. servicemen: On Jan. 30 in Iraq, the world witnessed an important moment in the global struggle against tyranny, a moment that historians may one day call a major turning point. America's men and women in uniform, who were instrumental in the liberation of Iraq, were to bring to witness this moment as well.

During the struggle to bring freedom to Iraq, many of you have faced difficult times far from home. I suspect there have been moments along the way when some of you may have wondered whether the effort would be worth the cost, or whether, even, the people you were trying to help truly stood with you.

Last Sunday, the Iraqi people answered those understandable questions in a resounding way — just as voters had in Afghanistan in October. The world is experiencing a global struggle between freedom and fear — and you are the side of the freedom. That's the side to be on. And the people of Afghanistan, and now the people of Iraq, have chosen to stand with you.

Consider the courage it took for the Iraqi people to go to the polls when they were warned that the act of voting could cost them and their family members their lives. Think of the determination they must have possessed to risk becoming targets for bombings or beheadings.

And yet the Iraqis voted, millions of them.

■ Voters arrived on crutches and donkey carts, passing by graffiti warnings on the walls that said: "You vote, you die."

■ Iraqis came to a polling station to vote even after a rocket attack had killed three people several hours earlier.

■ Children waved Iraqi flags as they witnessed the birth of their new free systems.

■ Elderly women with tears in their eyes held up their voting cards.

■ And voters displayed their ink-stained fingers as badges of honor in the fight against extremism.

Iraq's security forces also deserve recognition for their bravery and their willingness, despite the threats, to wear their country's uniforms and to provide security on Sunday for both the millions of voters and the thousands of election workers.

These are times of consequence. In the past few months, 50 million free people in Afghanistan and Iraq have begun to build new futures. They have rejected the extremism that fuels attacks on civilized people. And you have made that possible. Have no doubt: The courage and sacrifices of U.S. forces have helped to create the environment in which Afghans and Iraqis are developing the ability to take hold of their countries.

Now these free people continue to seek your help in building free, democratic and peaceful nations in some of the

Tell us what you think

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world's most violent regions. No one treasures peace more than you who have endured the horror of war.

So to all of you who are serving on freedom's front lines, and to your families, I offer my deepest appreciation and respect. To those who have lost friends or loved ones during this conflict or who have been injured in the pursuit of our freedom, find comfort in knowing that your sacrifices have historic meaning. And know that one day, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan will find a way to thank you, as I do, from the bottom of my heart.

May God bless you and May God bless the United States.

Donald Rumsfeld

Secretary of defense

Arlington, Va.

Syria trying to get rid of Sunnis

Syrian President Bashar Assad and his Baathists support the insurgency in Iraq by permitting terrorists to easily pass across the Syrian border. Assad has a selfish motive: Iraq is his political dumping ground; he wants Iraq to be a cemetery for Sunni militants who may one day challenge his regime.

Syria has been under the domination of the Assad's Alawite clan since it took over Syria in the 1960s. The Alawites consider themselves Shiite Muslims and comprise only 11 percent of Syria. Periodically, the Syrian Muslim majority has challenged the Assad government; in February 1982 Hafez Assad, Bashar's father, sent Syrian security forces to the Sunni town of Hama. In a 27-day siege, Alawite-led troops slaughtered more than 10,000 Sunni townspeople as an example to other Syrians. Now Bashar Assad has a convenient way to rid himself of Sunni militants by assisting them in their desire to enter Iraq to fight and die in jihad.

Assad obviously prefers a political resolution where Iraq is dominated by the Shiite majority, which would support his minority rule over Syria. So he and his

Baath Party gladly send Sunni "brothers" to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Muslim nations pursued the same policy when they sent their citizens to fight and die in Afghanistan.

Let us consider possible outcomes from Syrian terrorists who return to Damascus, battle-hardened and capable of rebellion. In the long term, Baathist Syria is creating its own insurgency. Right now, the American-led coalition is killing those Sunni terrorists whom Assad fears within his borders. We must oblige him for our own survival. In the future, however, we should expect the veterans of the Iraqi insurgency to challenge antagonists with whom they have a long history — the governments of Syria, Jordan, Israel and Egypt should await the cessation of hostilities in Iraq with caution.

President Assad knows who his enemies are, that is why he permits hundreds of terrorists to enter Iraq. He hopes it will become their cemetery before they create it.

First Lt. Mel Gagliano

New York, N.Y.

Questioning Gonzales Justified

The writer of the letter "Politics drives retired brass" (Jan. 28) doesn't address the disturbing issues stated in the retired officers' Jan. 25 letter about the nomination of Albert Gonzales as attorney general ("Gonzales not right fit for Gl's"). Those writers outlined some disturbing actions by Gonzales promoting torture and extended detentions without due process for the detainees (Gonzales who may well be innocent of any crime).

The writer asks: "Are enemy combatants without uniforms, murdering innocent people and soldiers, not representing an enemy country and not covered by the Geneva Conventions?"

What does this have to do with promoting a U.S. policy of torture and extended detentions? Who does get justice? The writer asks if the retired officers served in combat. What does that have to do with concern about promoting torture and extended detentions without due process?

The writer asks whether the officers are speaking for the majority or a select few. What does that have to do with questioning a policy that promotes torture and extended detentions? Do we now need a consensus to voice a concern? Are the officers politically motivated? Aren't we all?

But when a person's actions are disturbing and he is appointed to an office of high visibility and responsibility representing us, shouldn't we question those actions and how they might reflect on future decisions representing us? Elected and appointed officials are not gods or kings. They work for "We the people." And "We the people" should hold them accountable for their actions.

Gordon Union

Würzburg, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Iraq bravely voted to embrace nationalism

"Isn't it pretty to think so?" Those concluding words of Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises," a novel of postwar disillusion, became a generation's verbal shrug, expressing weary melancholy after a war waged to make the world safe for democracy.

George Will

Eighty years on, there of course remain reasons for wondering whether Iraq's stride toward popular sovereignty will lead to a durable and admirable democracy. But it is a humbling privilege for the rest of us to share the planet with the defiant Iraqis who campaigned and voted, and the coalition's superb warriors who made voting possible.

Democracy is more than a mechanism for picking leaders; it is institutions of pluralism, and attitudes of majority forbearance and minority acceptance. But democracy is a mechanism for selecting leaders. Can the leaders selected on Sunday — who must choose by a two-thirds vote a three-person Presidential Council, then write a constitution under which there will be another election for new leaders — all by December — lead toward a secular state respectful of civil liberties? If the government generated on Sunday cannot produce ample security — and electricity — it will be evanescent. To forestall majority tyranny, the new assembly will reflect proportional representation to a degree that would test the coalition-building skills of a mature parliamentary system. Any party with even one-seventh of the vote gets one of the 275 assembly seats. Two-thirds of the voters in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces can veto the con-

stitution, which means the Kurds or Sunnis could.

In which case, Iraq will be back to square one. But where exactly is that? As a communal nationalist, Sunday's elections should fuel Iraqi nationalism. Largely because of a misunderstanding of Hitler — a racist, not a nationalist; he supplanted national symbols with party symbols — nationalism has acquired a bad reputation. But nationalism — a civic identity organized around shared history and commemorated on sacred days, such as Jan. 30 — can trump sectarian differences, and fuse where they fracture.

Days before the voting, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the terrorist, and Edward Kennedy, the senator, contributed to Americans' understanding of the struggle in Iraq — Zarqawi by his clarity, Kennedy by his confusion. In a speech intellectually disheveled and morally obtuse, Kennedy said, "Our military and the insurgents are fighting for the same thing — the hearts and minds of the people." His weird idea is that while the coalition struggles to persuade Iraqis to try democracy, with its compromises and vicissitudes, the insurgents are trying to persuade Iraqis to embrace a rival idea of social organization. Actually, the two significant factions of insurgents, who have the totalitarianists' characteristic penchant for candor, do not even pretend to value consent achieved by persuasion.

One group, the former Baathist regime elements, aims only to return to their totalitarian vocation, as George Orwell understood it: "a boot stamping on a human face — forever." These elements know that only intimidation by vilest violence can serve them. Imagining them, as Kennedy does, as campaigners for a rival doctrine is, well, weird.

The other insurgents, those with radical Islam's agenda, reject modernity, root and branch, and so reject the idea that governments derive legitimacy from the consent of the governed. Twentieth-century totalitarian-

ism... Iraq is another Vietnam... we should... cut and run... insurgents are battling American occupation... Ah... or...



— fascists and communists — felt constrained to bow toward popular sovereignty with plebiscitary forms. Not Zarqawi, who says democracy is an "evil principle" and "heresy itself" because the will of the governed supplants God's will. For radical Islam, the public's mind deserves not respect but a religious scrubbing.

Forty years ago Kennedy suffered a continuing brain cramp. He and an aging but vocal portion of his party have no prism to see through and no vocabulary to speak with other than Vietnam. Hence they see the Iraqi insurgents as another iteration of the Viet Cong. But the Viet Cong had a marketable model for organizing the moon worshipers: Marxism — "scientific socialism" — is today as vanished as a pricked bubble, but when

Ho Chi Minh was in Paris, it was considered the last word in modernity, and found a mass market. Zarqawi's "program" is a howl of rage against modernity, promising only different boots — clerical ones — on the same faces.

Americans are understandably weary of hearing, "Now comes the really hard part." But those who said that after Baghdad fell 22 months ago were right, and those who say that after Sunday might be. Nevertheless, getting to, and through, Sunday was hard, and those — Iraqis, Americans and other coalition forces — who did it might yet pull that country into modernity. Isn't it pretty to think so?

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Final respects can celebrate an individual's spirit

I've been hunting only once in my life, so I'm guessing that a new line of camouflage caskets featuring deer, ducks or turkeys won't be appropriate for me when I buy the farm.

Bill Tammeus



Still, I find something appealing — not appalling — about these camo caskets built and sold by Arkansas Casket Sales of Heber Springs, Ark. (www.camocasket.com). I like the notion that we can tug on Death's cape and celebrate — even a little whimsically — the life of the one who has died.

These 18-gauge steel, gasketed, \$2,995 caskets come in "natural" and "evergreen," and co-owner Ruth Ann Graves (the perfect last name to own a casket company) says they have been "well-received. We've had a few sales. We feel like we're getting there, but it's just been hard getting the word out."

Her husband, Hugh Graves, says camo caskets fit into the move toward more-personalized funerals.

"Things are changing from the old morbid way of gruesome funerals," he says. "It's a time to celebrate." And yet he adds this: "We strictly are serious about this. Death is serious. When it happens to your family, it hurts. But we do something for the family that actually helps them." ...

But, he acknowledges, "It's not for everybody."

And yet everyone — whether people of

faith or people who stay as far away from religion as possible — eventually must face death. And there are honored traditions about how we say farewell and — depending on the religion, if any — about how we understand death.

But even in the most somber cultures, there surely is space at the end of a life to say, "This is the person who this person was."

When my father died 13 years ago, we chose a big-boned, wooden casket that reflected his gentle masculinity. When my mother died almost nine years ago, our choice was a soft, pinkish metal that spoke of a love of beauty and her feminine qualities.

I hope to avoid putting my survivors

through such a choice by being cremated and having my ashes buried on the grounds of my church. But ... I agree with Hugh and Ruth Ann Graves that there is a lot of room for expressions of individuality in funerals.

One reason is that religious tradition in almost all cultures for centuries has viewed life as an enormous and precious gift.

It's one reason, for example, that all major religions approve of organ and tissue donation so that one who is dying may help extend life for others. There certainly are different approaches ... but the overwhelming emphasis is on the value of preserving life and passing it on.

In some ways, that's because religions rec-

ognize that the mysterious reality of life itself is not something individuals own, exactly ... Doing something a little odd — such as choosing a casket decorated with hunting camouflage — is ... another way of affirming life as a joyous gift.

And speaking of affirmations, I've been thinking a little more about a casket to honor newspaper columnists. Headlines are fine, as well as some reprinted columns, but instead of a phone number and e-mail address at the end of the columns, I'd use a line that says: "You can comment on this column when you get to wherever the columnist has gone."

Bill Tammeus is a columnist for The Kansas City Star.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard's sage
Super Bowl
Prediction # 4



Future
Super
Bowl
will
feature
7-foot
tall,
400-lb.
linebacker...

...but none who'll
ever stand
taller than
Reggie White...



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Clinic in trouble

ID BONNERS FERRY — In 18 months, a mobile health clinic has provided basic medical care and dentistry to more than 2,500 low-income northern Idaho residents. Now the program's federal grant is set to expire and its organizers are asking three community clinics to take over the project.

Grave holdup

VA ALEXANDRIA — An elderly man was robbed while visiting his wife's grave, Fairfax County police said.

The 83-year-old victim was robbed after removing a wreath from his wife's grave at the National Memorial Gardens on Lee Highway.

The robber shoved something into the victim's back and demanded he be taken somewhere to get money. The victim tried to hit his attacker but was overpowered and pushed to the ground. The victim was forced into the car, where he gave the robber some cash. The robber got out and ran away.

Man giving away arcade

NH CLAREMONT — A local businessman is so set on seeing the city center revitalized, he wants to give away his 6-week-old video arcade to free himself up to start another business.

Nick Koloski says he wants to hand over the keys to Jester's Court, and he doesn't want a penny for it.

Koloski said his plan is to sign over the lease to someone interested in running the shop. The space is rented, as are most of the video games, so the new owner would assume the expenses.

Koloski says his goal is to have a hand in filling the remaining empty storefronts in downtown Claremont, and he doesn't want to be committed to one business while trying to do that.

Elephant stomps trainer

IN FORT WAYNE — An elephant being loaded onto a truck trampled a circus animal trainer to death at Memorial Coliseum, police said.

Three handlers were loading the elephants crews packed up from the Shrine Circus, Fort Wayne television station WISE reported. Two of the workers left the trailer and one man stayed behind to lock the trailer door.

Police believe the elephant crushed the man, who was found later by a Coliseum worker. He died from blunt force trauma to the chest at a hospital a few hours after being found, police said.

Police said they did not know how many times the elephant stepped on the man, whose name was not released.

Pooh royalties suit

CA LOS ANGELES — The family that owns the U.S. marketing rights to Winnie the Pooh will appeal a judge's dismissal of its long-running royalties dispute with The Walt Disney Co. an attorney for the family said.

"We do think that the judge's ruling was incorrect," attorney



Steven Sherr said.

In March, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charles McCoy threw out the case brought by Stephen Slesinger Inc., ruling the company illegally obtained confidential documents from Disney offices and trash.

The judge dismissed the 13-year-old lawsuit with prejudice, meaning the company cannot sue again on the claim that Disney owed millions of dollars in royalties for Pooh movies released on DVD.

Paramedics suspended

NC RALEIGH — Two paramedics who mistakenly declared an accident victim dead had their credentials suspended.

Paramedics Wade Kearney II and Paul Kilmer had their credentials suspended for rules violations, according to the state Office of Emergency Medical Services. They are among four paramedics who have been suspended with pay.

Larry Green, 29, was struck by a car and pronounced dead at the scene. Two hours later, a medical examiner at the morgue saw Green take a shallow breath and realized he was alive. Green remains in critical condition.

Arrest in actor's death

NY NEW YORK — A 19-year-old Staten Island man was arrested and charged in the murder of an aspiring actress on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

During an arraignment, Rudy Fleming was charged with mur-



Prayer for homeless

Matthew Tarlecki, a Buddhist student, prays during the Covenant of Compassion rally in San Francisco. Participants carried crosses bearing the names of homeless people who perished on the streets of San Francisco in 2004.

der, robbery, attempted robbery and weapons possession. He was remanded with a court date set for Tuesday, prosecutors said. Calls to Fleming's attorney, Dennis Murphy, were not immediately returned.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Hettelman said Fleming could face life in prison and possibly the death penalty, if convicted.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPree and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Law aids student choice

HI HONOLULU — The No Child Left Behind Act let almost 700 students transfer to better schools last fall, education officials said. That's up from about 150 the previous year. The act allows low-income students to leave schools posting low standardized test scores for at least two years in a row.

Family offers reward

ND BISMARK — Family members of a slain couple are offering a \$5,000 reward in the case, saying they have lost confidence in state authorities investigating the deaths.

The slayings of Norman and Yvonne Olson have puzzled officials from the start. Norman, 73, and Yvonne, 69, disappeared on Aug. 14, leaving behind cash and credit cards, and food on the kitchen counter.

No trace of them was found until early November, when an off-duty police officer discovered the bodies while hunting northwest of Hettinger. Authorities have said they are unsure if anyone other than the couple was involved in the slayings.

The Olson family has issued a statement saying, "Investigators prejudged the case very early on as a murder-suicide, despite unaddressed questions and details to the contrary, and that this bias has hindered a thorough investigation of all possibilities."

Spelling bee back on

RI LINCOLN — School officials have reversed their decision keeping students out of a statewide spelling bee, which they had decided to skip due in part to concerns about the children's feelings.

Lincoln's four elementary schools and its middle school will hold school spelling bees, and the winners will face off in a district-wide bee, the school department said.

"It's something that a lot of people have an interest in doing, so we're going to do it," said Schools Superintendent John Tindall-Gibson.

After last year's spelling bee, school principals indicated they didn't want to take part again. They told the assistant superintendent they felt the bee hurt children's self-esteem, and conflicted with the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind education law because it didn't allow students to succeed.



She does windows

Abby Garner, aquarist for the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, cleans the windows of a fish tank.



He'll grow into it

Jared Glisson, 3, tries to throw a football while wearing a full-sized uniform at the NFL Experience in Jacksonville, Fla.



Strawberry Hill topped High atop the Cruise-Scoog's Mansion on Strawberry Hill, roofers Larry Brown, left, and Peadar O'Neill pause as they finished a section of the roof in Kansas City, Kan. The Queen Anne-style mansion, built in 1887, houses the Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center.



A tough start A newborn Angolan Colobus monkey at the Abilene Zoo rests against a stuffed animal inside an incubator on loan from Abilene Regional Medical Center in Texas. The female monkey was delivered through a Caesarean section and needed an incubator because her mother was rejecting her.



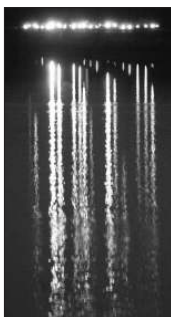
Need dinner company?

Looking for a meal of bait or leftover fish, a sea lion climbs on board a boat at the Petro Marine dock in Kodiak, Alaska.



Happy birthday

Rudy, a gorilla at the Erie Zoo in Erie, Pa., turned 49 this week. Rudy is believed to be the oldest captive lowland gorilla in the world, according to the International Species Information System.



Night lights

Car headlights from commuters entering Decatur, Ala., reflect off the waters of the Tennessee River. The commuters are driving south on the Highway 31 causeway.

South Shore shooting

MA RANDOLPH — A man was shot and killed outside a South Shore dance club in what authorities called the town's first street killing in more than a decade.

Joseph Lopes, 23, was shot after he left the Copa Grande when the club closed, Norfolk District Attorney William Keating said.

Lion-cub grabbers fined

CO ESTES PARK — A 65-pound mountain lion cub — guessed to be about 4 or 5 months old — was picked up by three friends on the way home from dinner.

When they saw the cub, "It looked up as if to say, 'Help me,'" said one of the men, Jason Lee Laird, 21.

They decided to take the animal to a veterinary clinic. En route, they flagged down a Boulder County sheriff's deputy, and a wildlife officer was called.

The sheriff's deputy told the men he smelled marijuana. Laird suggested it was because the cub had relieved itself in the back of his Jeep, but he and one of his friends were ultimately ticked after Deputy Jeff Canton told them, "Mountain lions don't smoke marijuana," according to the incident report.

The cub had to be euthanized later, wildlife officials said.

Competition aids drivers

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire drivers are benefiting from increased competition among auto insurers, officials say. Seven of 11 auto insurance companies that have filed rate change requests with the state so far this year have asked for decreases.

That compares with five of 25 in 2004 and none the year before, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Concerns on e-mail use

AR LITTLE ROCK — Some college students say their professors should refrain from reading e-mail during legislative debate and focus on the discussion.

House Speaker Bill Stovall says he wants legislators to be able to use laptops in chambers to check on pertinent bills. But he's concerned about legislators being distracted from floor debate by e-mails from constituents, journalists and others.

Law comes with price

KY LOUISVILLE — A Jefferson Circuit judge is giving Louisville's adult businesses until March 9 to comply with a strict new adult entertainment law, providing they post a \$25,000 bond.

That will give the case a chance to reach the state Court of Appeals. The ordinance prohibits nudity, requires adult entertainment businesses to close by 1 a.m. and stipulates that dancers to remain at least 6 feet from patrons.

Where the buffalo roam

SD RAPID CITY — A buffalo that escaped from an auction ended up in a dressing room

at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, where it spent a couple of hours starting into a mirror.

The buffalo jumped over a steel panel Sunday morning during the Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, went down an alley and got into the dressing room reserved for visiting sports teams, said Brian Maliske, the civic center's general manager.

"The door happened to be unlocked and he pushed the door open and went in," Maliske said. Once the sale ended, a rodeo crewmember coaxed the buffalo out of the dressing room and back into captivity.

Too close for comfort

OH TOLEDO — About one in four registered sex offenders in Lucas County lives closer to a school than allowed by state law, The Blade newspaper reported.

Sex offenders aren't supposed to live within 1,000 feet of a school, but police officers say it can be difficult to get a court order to force offenders to move.

No more weather man

ND WILLISTON — The National Weather Service says a technology upgrade at its station here will allow warnings and other reports to go on the air quicker. A computer-generated voice system will read the Williston station's radio broadcasts.

Meteorologist Rick Krolak said the Williston station was the last in the country to abandon broadcasts read by people.

Mom jailed over fines

TX ANGLETON — Susan Manis was surprised when two Brazoria County deputies showed up at her home with a warrant for her arrest.

Manis said she was handcuffed, put in a patrol car and taken to jail.

Her husband, Steve, contacted a judge, who called the jail and ordered her release.

The warrant stemmed from Manis missing a monthly payment on fees she levied against one of her sons when he was a juvenile.

"I accepted responsibility for them," said Manis, who agreed in court to make a payment.

An unwelcome surprise

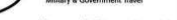
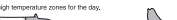
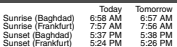
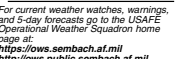
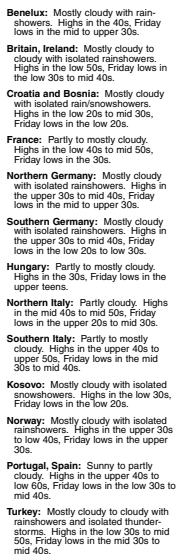
NY CENTER MORICHES — Christopher Runyan's father Paul, 77, died at Central Suffolk Hospital last week. The hospital was supposed to have turned his belongings over to Simickson's Moriches Funeral Home, which in turn gave the bag to Runyan's wife, Andrea.

But Runyan later smelled a foul stench coming from the bag and when he opened it, he discovered a leg with a toe tag attached. At first he thought it was his father's because he had an arm amputated in an attempt to save him.

But a blue toe tag attached to the leg indicated it belonged to a completely different person.

Suffolk County police Sgt. George Kelly said Tuesday that investigators determined that the leg belonged to a patient who died Jan. 13. "We believe it was just a case of human error," Kelly said.

Photos and stories from wire reports





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Like skiing a postcard

Let your eyes glide over Grindelwald, Switzerland

BY LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

She was convinced that the best skiing is in the French Alps. Every season she and her three children spent a week at Christmas and another at Easter in the Three Valleys resort in France.

Then, last season I asked her to join me and members of the Patch Ski Club of Stuttgart, Germany, for a three-day weekend in Grindelwald, Switzerland.

My friend, Gerlinde Sälzer, was overwhelmed. We were blessed with sunshine and good snow. We skied blue, red and black runs, enjoyed cozy huts, the picturesque old mountain town — and the trains.

The Grindelwald slopes are under the famous peaks of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. On the other side of these mountains are the connecting ski slopes of Wengen, a car-free village accessible by train only. Together they comprise the Kleine Scheidegg-Männlichen ski area.

There are cable cars that get to the high slopes, but there are also cog trains. Painted bright green and yellow, the old-world trains chug up the mountains not much faster than a child's model train. From afar, surrounded by snowy peaks, they look like toy trains set in a department store window at Christmas.

"You sit so comfy in these old-fashioned trains," Sälzer said. "You can enjoy the scenery. It's so much more relaxed than riding a cable car."

She was also impressed by the skiing. The slopes of the Kleine Scheidegg-Männlichen ski area are in Switzerland's Bernese Oberland near the city of Interlaken. All are part of an even greater ski region, the Jungfrau Top Ski Region, which also includes the slopes of First across the valley from Grindelwald and the slopes of Mürren-Schilthorn across the valley from Lauterbrunnen, the town just below Wengen. Scenes from the James Bond movie, "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," were filmed at Mürren-Schilthorn.

The Kleine Scheidegg area has about 62 miles of ski trails; the entire Jungfrau region has some 120 miles of slopes.



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN (Special to Stars and Stripes)

From the old hotel that dominates the area of Kleine Scheidegg, you can take the sight-seeing train to the Jungfrauoch.

On our first day, we rode the train from Grindelwald to Kleine Scheidegg, a complex under the Eiger glacier with a train station, hotel, restaurant, bars and shops. From there, we had to climb up to the four-person Lauberhorn chair lift that took us to the top of the Lauberhorn World Cup downhill slope, the world's longest, and according to some, greatest, downhill course.

We skied the slope, with pauses on the way down. It's hard to imagine that racers ski this run nonstop at record-breaking speeds all the way to the bottom.

SEE GRINDELWALD, PAGE 20



A cable car hangs above the slopes of Mürren-Schilthorn, where the James Bond film, "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," was filmed.

GRINDELWALD, FROM PAGE 19

We skied red runs on this, the Wengen side of the mountain, down to Allmend, a spot along the rail tracks where the train stops.

We rode back up to Kleine Scheidegg, then skied down the other side near the bottom of the Salzegg T-bar. We had to take our skis off and cross the tracks to get to the T-bar for a steep and treacherous ascent to a black run "for good skiers only."

It was challenging and fun.

At the bottom of the run, we had an outdoor lunch, *Käseschmitten* (an open-faced sandwich of melted Gruyère cheese), at the Eigergletscher cafe. That afternoon we skied a long red run, Number 21, through pine trees. We skied a blue run, Number 6, then the Number 3 red run to the bottom of the Männlichen cable car at Grindel.

As we got close to the bottom we were skiing past worn, weathered huts, then picture-book chalets. This was Switzerland at its postcard best.

The next day, we took the ski club bus around the mountains to Stetelberg. From there, we rode four different cable cars, all crowded with waiting lines, to get to the top, Schilthorn Piz Gloria at 7,486 feet above sea level. After almost 2½ hours of bus and lift rides we were ready to ski.

The wait was even longer as we took time to climb up to the Piz Gloria revolving restaurant terrace for spectacular views and photo ops of some 200 mountain peaks.

There is only one run from the top, a black run that isn't that difficult. However, as it's the only way down, it was crowded. Avoiding collisions with other skiers added to the downhill challenge.

Red and blue runs make up the middle section of the mountain, but they are all short. We decided to ski back to the bus at Stetelberg, which was a mistake as we ran out of snow near the bottom. We picked our way between houses and huts, searching for patches of snow so we would not have to de-ski and we walk. We agreed that skiing the



Courtesy of www.swiss-image.com

Skiers relax at the mountain restaurant Arvengarten in the ski area of Kleine Scheidegg in Grindelwald, Switzerland.

Mürren side was fine for one day, but the better skiing is on the Kleine Scheidegg area.

On our last day, we explored more runs on the Wengen Männlichen side. We followed trail 22 through a pine forest to Brändegg for an afternoon treat

— *Apfelmüchli*, apple fritters laden with vanilla sauce — then continued on 22 for a leisurely ski to the bottom.

During our short stay in Grindelwald, we did not ski the slopes of First on the other side of the town because we were content

with the Kleine Scheidegg area. The First area is smaller and the slopes are said to be easier.

Nor did we take time for mountain sight-seeing via a ride on the Jungfraubahn, a train from Kleine Scheidegg through the Eigertunnel to the Eigergwand and Eismeer stations with spectacular views through large observation windows heaving from solid Alpine rock. The trip ends at the Jungfraujoch, the highest train station in the world at 11,400 feet, called "the top of Europe."

Although Salzer is not about to give up the French Alps, she would love to return to Grindelwald.

"I like it very much," she said. "It's one of the best places in Switzerland. I like the countryside. Everything seems much slower, calmer and peaceful. It's typically Switzerland with the wooden chalets and pine forests."

And, she added, "You can see it all much closer from the comfortable trains."

Leah Larkin, a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, is a journalist and skier living in France.



LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

The Jungfrau ski region with the slopes of Grindelwald, Wengen and Mürren offers 120 miles of prepared runs.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

If you go

• Costs: A ski pass for all areas of the Winter Sport Region Jungfrau is \$6 Swiss francs (about \$50) for one day; 120 Swiss francs for two days and 165 Swiss francs for three days. Children ages 6-15 are half-price. With a three-day ski pass, and an additional \$50 Swiss francs, you can ride the Jungfraubahn to the Jungfraujoch.

• More information: Find further details on Grindelwald on the Web at www.grindelwald.com.

Find information on the Jungfrau area at www.jungfrau.ch.

— LEAH LARKIN

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Mar 6 Southeastern Turkey / Ski trains & events
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Mar 27 N. flower parade / Journal / Middleburg
Apr 6 Munich / Hotel / Croatia / Churchill's bunker
Apr 10 Wine Festival / Swiss / Spanish / Hungarian
Apr 17 Cyprus / Disney military resort / Turin, Italy
Apr 24 Holland / Morocco / Karyn's tea party
May 1 Costa Rica / Mexico / Portugal / Andalusia
May 8 Woodchuck / Theater / Nottingham, London
May 16 Italy, Auld, Veneto, Hildesheim, Vienna
May 20 Getting around, but, fly, riding / Guides
May 29 Greek island hopping / Zeus Cave / Wine tests
June 4 Oils Europe and Africa, Greece, Bosnia, Morocco
June 12 Monaco / Gibraltar / Portugal / London
June 19 Running of the bulls, San Fermín / Bull fighting
June 26 Rallying in Russia / Croatia, Bulgaria
July 3 Graz, Austria / Ireland / Venice / Reykjavik
July 10 Battle of Hastings / Channel Islands / Glasgow
July 17 Italy / Spanish castles / Germany / Poland

July 24 Prague / Fr + Amsterdam / Sweden / Salzburg
July 31 London Eye / Madrid / Bullets by Web / Biking
Aug 7 St. Kitts/Nevis / Switzerland / Turkey / Venice
Aug 14 Warsaw / Blue France / Prince Charles residence
Aug 21 Ireland / French Riviera / Paris / Hungary
Aug 28 Alps / Tuscany / Dinkelschall / Switzerland
Sept 4 Lake District / Iceland / Romania / Paris
Sept 11 Munich / Oktoberfest / Olympiastadion / Thiborg
Sept 18 Moor, Germany / Berlin / Museum Island
Sept 25 Czech capital / Venice, Italy / Hungarian spa
Oct 2 Rhein river / Czech beer & wine / Paris
Oct 10 Portugal / Munich / Bavaria / Tours
Oct 16 Rhein towns / Zoo / Deth / Graz, Austria
Oct 23 Rally car / Chassis / Strasbourg / poultry
Oct 30 Ski Europe / Gear, APC, Sella Ronda, Clubs, Alps
Nov 6 Dubai / UAE and Qatar / Stockholm / N. Italy
Nov 13 Sailing & yachts / E. Europe / Balkans / Warsaw
Nov 20 Newcastle / Antiques / London / Pub crawl
Nov 27 Rembrandt castle / Friesland / Strasbourg / Liege
Dec 4 Gifts Europe and Africa, Greece, Bosnia, Morocco
Dec 11 Frankfurt, Germany / Italy, Greece, Thail, Vienna
Dec 18 Favorite German towns / London theater district
Dec 24 New Year's Eve / Christmas traditions
Jan 8 Buchenwald / Leeds Castle / Estonia / Lichtenstein
Jan 15 Monaco / Canary Islands / Malta / South Africa
Jan 22 Salt Turkey / Greek ski resorts / Helder Italy

Jan 29 Carnival, Sp. Venice, Switzerland, Fr. Germany
Feb 8 Basel for families and museum lovers / Basel
Feb 18 Spa Day / Indoor Tropical Paradise / Ski Clubs
Feb 19 Venice Carnival / Spain's Holy Week, Inland art
Feb 26 Ski Europe / Austria / England / Netherlands
Mar 6 Sardinia, Italian isle / Venice gondolas / Ravenna
Mar 11 N. Scotland visits / Dublin / England / France
Mar 18 Medical Germany / Kauterbach / Vienna
Mar 25 Copenhagen / Swedish canals / Oslo / Norway
Apr 1 Italy / Chivalry / Naples / Italy fast, slow / Milan
Apr 6 Mount by bike / Iceland / Villars on horseback
Apr 18 Europe's wines / Piedmont / sparkling / Port
Apr 22 Tuscany / Genoa / Paris / Cyprus / Vinopolis
May 6 The new top 10 / Visit E.U. additions before others
May 13 Teel, N. catamarans / sailing / fishing / hiking
May 20 Memorials / Vermont / GI / Kauai / Honolulu
May 27 Normandy / Day after for 40th Anniversary
June 6 Vienna / Tuscany / family travels / Olympic
June 10 Medieval fairs / Germany / Ireland / England
June 17 Germany / Prague / Belgian beer / Sertorio
June 24 Spain / Monterey / Barcelona / Mallorca
July 1 Paris by jetway / Stockholm call culture
July 7 Normandy / Day after for 40th Anniversary
July 14 London's dock tour / London fun
July 22 Windmills / Dutch / Budapest's Children's Railway
July 29 Highlands / Scotland / wedding
Aug 5 Athens / Satalio / western island by bike

Aug 12 Paris soul food / Paris on a budget
Aug 19 Milan club Hollywood / secret date / Croatia
Aug 26 Athens day in the sun
Sept 2 Hiking Haidari / Wall / ballooning
Sept 16 Oktoberfest / Sausalito, Germany
Sept 16 Abbey of St. Hildegard, Germany / Frankfurt
Sept 28 Royal yacht / Venice / Glasgow capital of cool
Sept 28 Vienna / Oktoberfest / fine wine village
Oct 7 Spain / Basque region / Oporto, Portugal / rugby
Oct 16 Lithuania family fun / Venice / Eastern Europe
Oct 21 Home to Norway / Stockholm on ice / Sweden
Oct 28 Ski Europe 2005 / Snow forecast / Best resorts
Nov 6 Iceland: Small Swiss Family / French Alps
Nov 11 Times Tall: medieval & modern / Art, beer
Nov 18 Centuries & museums honor lost in Battle of the Bulge
Nov 28 Europe's Christmas market
Dec 2 Tanger / Morocco / Budapest / Germany
Dec 9 Whiskey tasting in Scotland and Croatia
Dec 16 Lithuania family fun / Venice / Eastern Europe
Dec 23 New Years throughout Europe and the Holy Land
Dec 30 Personalized Adventure travel / WWII sites / Sailing in Greece
Jan 6 London in winter
Jan 13 Epiphany in Venice / balls in Prague
Jan 20 Events in Europe 2005 / Indoor Tropical Island Resort / Ham in Madrid

That's Italian – or is it Swiss?

In Switzerland's Ticino province, it's pleasantly both

BY JAY CLARKE

Knight Ridder Newspapers

If your image of Switzerland is of Alps, cows and chocolate factories, you're in for a surprise when you visit this part of the country.

Mountains, bovines and candy are as visible in the Ticino region as in the rest of the country, but the resemblance stops there.

The Swiss here speak Italian, not French or German. The cuisine leans more to pastas than wursts. Vineyards rather than pastures spread over the valleys, and palm trees rim the shores of the district's beautiful lakes.

It's a glorious combination, which is why hotels and vacation chalets abound. Clear-blue lakes Lugano and Maggiore curl around the base of mountains that climb more than a mile above them. Charming towns and villages, many with legacies that reach back hundreds of years, perch along their shores or nestle in the valleys.

And while Ticino's people are firmly Swiss, their heritage is just as firmly Italian.

Here in Lugano, visitors stroll along the wide promenade that borders the serpentine Lake Lugano, admiring the always inspiring view of mountains and water and pausing perhaps to buy an Italian ice from a street vendor or to watch the swans paddling near the rental-boat docks.

Close by, ringed by flower-bedecked, Lombardic-style buildings in the Old Quarter's Piazza della Riforma, other tourists sip cappuccino in outdoor cafes. Then, perhaps, they'll browse through the upscale shops like Gucci and Louis Vuitton that line the pedestrian-only Via Nassa. More historically oriented visitors continue on to the lakeside St. Mary of the Angels Church, known for its 16th-century frescoes.

An hour away in Ascona, an equally eye-pleasing waterfront scene greets visitors lolling on the promenade that borders Lake Maggiore. Touristy shops beckon with pricey goods on Ascona's Via Borgo while hotels with sunny balconies provide a panorama of lake, mountains and red-roofed villas.

Visiting the small lakeside villages by boat or car is as rewarding. In photogenic Morcote, for example, one can explore winding alleys and climb a narrow stairway to the church of Santa Maria del Sasso to peruse its ornate frescoes.

Also in Morcote is the Parco Scherer, on whose grounds are downsized replicas of such famous structures as the Parthenon's Erechtheion and the Temple of Neferet.

Away from the lakes, the busy capital of Ticino, Bellinzona, boasts three castles that recently were registered as UNESCO World Heritage. The surrounding streets lined with shops wind through the city's charming old



KRT

A promenade borders the lakefront at Lugano, Switzerland. It is a major resort in the Swiss province of Ticino.



Grapes in the Ticino region make superb red merlots.

quarter.

If all this sounds idyllic, it may be just that for the Swiss who live north of Ticino. With weather that can be irritably dyspeptic, residents in the northern cantons of Switzerland never regret that their troops seized the lands of Ticino from the Milanese in the early 1500s, giving them both a strategic boost for its alpine pastures and a sunny in-country vacation destination.

Of course, there are no Edens on earth, and in Ticino the downside for American visitors is the same one they will find throughout Switzerland: Costs. With the Swiss franc creeping above 80

cents to the dollar, this country is expensive. American shoppers may fare a bit better across the border in euro-currency Italy, although it's not cheap, either.

On the other hand, good wine is reasonably priced here. The Ticinese make a superb red merlot, and even offer a

smooth white merlot, a wine that's hard to find in the Americas. Ticinese *grappa*, a potent Italian brandy, also is memorable. Local vineyards offer tastings.

Visitors to Ticino will spot many vineyards as well as some trees Americans rarely see, among them chestnuts and quince (a relative of the pear). Chestnuts are a Ticinese specialty, used in several dishes. For an unusual taste treat, try them soaked in grappa.

A side trip up the Maggia Valley is a treat in other ways. As it climbs toward the higher mountains in the north of Ticino, this ancient valley offers a pan-

orama of history and lifestyles different from that in the lake resorts of Lugano, Locarno and Ascona.

Centuries-old stone houses still support heavy roofs made of granite, which is plentiful here. In the little town of Cevio, still-visible frescoes cover the walls of the police station as well as the facade of the Museo Valmaggia.

Little "chapels" — roadside shrines enclosing religious statues — appear every now and then on the shoulders of the main valley road. Swiss cantons built dozens of them years ago so that travelers could pause to pray. Some are works of art.

Another village, Moggi, provides a visual shock: Amid its simple buildings stands a incongruous sight, a round spaceship-like modern church. When an avalanche in 1986 destroyed their old church, the townsperson replaced it with one designed by Mario Botta, architect of the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. At first, the granite-and-marble structure seems completely out of touch with the rest of the village, but it grows on you.

Also, a tiny settlement at 4,000 feet of elevation at the end of the valley road, is a mini-tour-



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

ist destination, with an excellent restaurant and a pretty dam-created lake. High above Lake Sambuco, visitors to the Dazio dairy can see how Valmaggia cheese is made, using 20 percent goat's milk and 80 percent cow's milk. Unlike cheeses made in European Union countries, this is unpasteurized.

Diversions like these give dimension to Ticino. But in the end, it's the people and their way of life that give it its strongest appeal. Their improbable melding of Italian flair with Swiss efficiency creates an ambience found very few places in the world.

For more information on Switzerland's Ticino Province, go to www.myswitzerland.com, click on Regions/Destinations, then Ticino.

Ski Clubs & Events

COMPILED BY KAREN BRADBURY Stars and Stripes

This column lists ski events as space allows. Costs are generally quoted for double occupancy; ask about singles supplements.

The fastest way to add, correct or update a listing way to send information by e-mail to: travel@mail.estripes.com. You also may fax it to (+49) (0) 6155-601-416. If you have questions, please call (+49) (0) 6155-601-380.

Clubs

ITALY

AVIANO SKI CLUB

Area: Northern Italy
Web site: www.avianoskiclub.com
Telephone: 0434 365 185 (Gloria Leonarduzzi, Vice President)
Trips: Feb. 18-21, Lake Bled, Slovenia, \$190; March 11-13, Molltaler Glacier, Austria, \$120.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 069-9720-3669
E-mail: info@fiscweb.org
Web site: www.fiscweb.org
Trips: Feb. 11-13, Villars, Switzerland, 245 euros; Feb. 13-19, St. Veit i. Austria, 390 euros (U-drive); Feb. 19-20, Verbier, Switzerland, 195 euros; Feb. 19-21, Crans-Montana, 265 euros; Feb. 25-27, Zell am See, Austria, 200 euros; Feb. 26-March 5, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 790 euros; March 4-6, Descent/Sedrun, Switzerland, 185 euros; March 10-13, Chamonix, France, 235 euros; March 11-13, Flims-Laxa, Switzerland, 195 euros; March 18-20, Klosters, Switzerland, 255 euros; March 24-28, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 340 euros; March 26-April 2, Val Thorens, France, 485 euros; April 1-3, St. Anton i. Austria, 195 euros; April 8-10, Lech, Austria, 205 euros; April 14-17, Zermatt, Switzerland, 255 euros; April 28-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 270 euros; June 16-19, Chiemsee Adventure, Germany, 265 euros; July 4-6, Sächsische Schweiz, Germany, 265 euros. These are first sign-up prices; prices then increase by 10 euros. Airfare not included in price of Banff trip.

GRAFENWÖHR SKI AND SNOWBOARDING CLUB

Area: Grafenwöhr/Visseck
Telephone: DSN 476-1560 (Hilfari)
0964-1831560

E-mail: GRAFWOHR@hotmail.com

Trips: Feb. 17-25, Dolomites, Italy, price TBA; March 18-20, Zell am See, Austria, price TBA.

HEIDELBERG

INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 06202-577-8422 or 06221-57-5352; or DSN 370-5352



Men wearing Carnival-style outfits hold on to their sled jumps over the snow Sunday during the traditional Bavarian "Schnalberace" in Gaisach, near Bad Tölz, southern Germany.

E-mail: president@heidelsbergski.com
Web site: www.heidelsbergski.com

Trips: Feb. 11-13, Crans-Montana, Switzerland, 290 euros; Feb. 18-21, Bad Hofgastein, Austria, 325 euros; Feb. 18-21, Flims-Laxa, Switzerland, 225 euros; Feb. 20-26, St. Veit i. Austria, 400 euros; March 4-6, Zell am See, Austria, 190 euros; March 18-20, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, 245 euros; March 19-26, Tignes, France, 765 euros; April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland, 285 euros; April 8-10, Arberg, 210 euros; April 9-16, Val Thorens, France, (200-340 euros); April 29-May 1, Ischgl (220 euros); May 27-30, Bodensee (290 euros).

KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB

Telephone: 06303-4751

E-mail: carper@msn.com

Web site: www.ktownskiclub.com

Trips: Feb. 11-13, Serfaus, Austria, 185 euros; Feb. 17-21, Chamonix, France, 430 euros; Feb. 26-March 5, Tignes, France, 480 euros; March 18-20, Lenzerheide, Switzerland, 210 euros; April 1-3, Verbier, Switzerland, 150 euros; April 22-24, Lech, Austria, 215 euros. A non-refundable 50 euro deposit is required for all trip sign-ups.

LABER SKI CLUB

Area: Southern Germany, Austria and northern Italy

Telephone: C1 08822 9481 3100, DSN 440-2666

E-mail: President Tim Payne at Payne.timothy@natoschool.net

Web site: www.natoschool.net, select "NATO School Lodge & Community Club"

Trips: Feb. 5-6, Koenig Lang Lauf (cross country), Oberammergau, Germany; Feb. 12, Ratchings, Austria; Feb. 25-27, Switzerland (TBD); March 4, Seefeld, Austria; March 12, Ischgl, Austria; March 19-20, Passo

Pordoi, Italy; April 2, Zugspitze, Germany.

MANHHEIM INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: Janet-Anne Boykin at 06206-75268

E-mail: boykinjanj@hotmail.com

Web site: <http://www.ski-ki.no>

Trips: Feb. 18-21, St. Anton, Austria, 180 euros, bed and breakfast; March 4-6, Lech/Zurs/St. Anton, Austria, 130 euros; March 11-13, Montafon, Austria, 130 euros; March 18-20, Verbier, Switzerland, 140 euros; April 9-16, Meribel, France, price TBA, slope-side apartments.

PATCH SKI CLUB

Area: Stuttgart

Telephone: DSN 430-5789

E-mail: info@psc-ski.org

Web site: www.patchskiclub.org

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 230 euros; March 4-6, Gstaad, Switzerland, 200 euros; March 17-20, Chamonix, France, 390 euros; April 7-10, St. Moritz, Switzerland, April 7-10, April 9-16, Val Thorens, France, 320 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 220 euros; May 27-30, Siegi Golf i. St. Veit, Austria, 260 euros.

TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community, Ellfeld, Baumböhl, Mannheim regions, Rheinland-Pfalz and Spangdahlem

E-mail: David Hanavan, dave@tannenbaumskiclub.com

Telephone: 06301-3478

Web address: www.tannenbaumskiclub.com

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Verbier-4 Valleys, Switzerland, 210 euros; Feb. 18-21, Portes des Solles, France, 245 euros; Feb. 18-21, Bad Gastein, Austria, 235 euros;

March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 160 euros; March 11-13, Flims-Laxa, 185 euros; April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland, 200 euros; April 8-10, St. Anton, Austria, 165 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 205 euros. All trips are by bus except the Siegi trip, which are U-drives.

WESTPALZ INTERNATIONAL

SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community

Web site: www.westpalzskiclub.org

Telephone: 06371-598537

E-mail: kdsowell@interquest.de

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 230 euros; March 6-12, St. Veit, Austria, 390 euros, including ski school; March 11-13, Zell Am See, Austria, 220 euros; April 8-10, Lech, Austria, 220 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 215 euros.

WÜRZBURG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: Acting President Mike Hall, 0932 19244525

E-mail: wsiclub@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wsiclub.org

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Verbier, Switzerland, 220 euros; March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 190 euros; March 14-20, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 400 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 230 euros; May 13-15, Landeck, Austria, price TBA; May 28-31, St. Veit, Austria, price TBA.

Outdoor Recreation

ITALY

VICENZA OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 19, March 5 and 12, in new Oberammergau, Italy; Feb. 5, March 12 and April 19, St. Martin, Italy; Feb. 12 and March 19, Alleghe, Italy. DSN 634-7453.

GERMANY

BAUMHOLTER OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 5 and 19, Black Forest (Feldberg), \$65 adults, \$45 children; Feb. 10-14, Gastein, Austria, \$14.15 per person; Feb. 25-27, March 11-13, Interlaken, Switzerland, \$125 transport and equipment rental, hostel lodging \$25 per night, lift passes, two days for 72 euros, non-skiers welcome. DSN 485-7182.

GIessen OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 5, Winterberg, Germany, \$55; Feb. 12-13 Black Forest (Feldberg), Germany, with one overnight, \$119 adults, \$69 ages 4-11, \$19 ages 3 and under; Feb. 19-21, Garmisch, Germany, two overnights, \$199/109/49; Feb. 26, Garmisch, Germany, one overnight, new Edelweiss Hotel, \$139; \$89/49; Feb. 26, Winterberg, Germany, \$59. DSN 343-8202.

HANAU OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 24-25 and 28-29, Black Forest, Germany, overnight with two ski days, \$109 adults, \$89 children; Feb. 6-8, Hinterux, Austria, one overnight with two ski days, price TBA; Feb. 13-16, Oberammergau, Germany, three overnights, price TBA. DSN 322-8010 or C1 06183-51615.

KAISERSLAUTERN OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 5, express to Feldberg, Germany, \$45 adults, \$45

children; Feb. 9, express to Feldberg, Germany, \$45 adults, \$35 children; Feb. 11-13, Flims-Laxa, Switzerland, cost TBA; Feb. 12, express to Engelberg, Switzerland, \$55 adults, \$45 children; Feb. 18-21, weekend in Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland, \$195; Feb. 19, express to Jungfrau, Switzerland, \$55 adults, \$45 children. DSN 489-7751 or C1 06183-59675.

KATTERBACH OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 12, day trip to Garmisch, Germany, \$30 for bus and ski rental.

Feb. 18-21, Austria weekend ski

(BOSS), \$289 including bus, hotel, lift and rental. DSN 467-3225 or C1 09802-63-3225.

MANHHEIM OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 19 and 26, March 12 and 26 and April 2 and 10, Engelberg, Switzerland, \$50 plus lift; Feb. 5, 12 and 19 and March 5 and 19, Feldberg, Germany, \$35 plus lift; Feb. 12, Single Soldier 2-for-1 special to Feldberg, \$35 plus lift; Feb. 12, family trip to Feldberg, \$25 plus lift; March 19, teen trip to Feldberg (\$25 plus lift), MÖR's ski swap is from Feb. 1 to April 1.

DN 381-7215 or 381-7232, C1 0621-730-7215 or 0621-730-7232.

NATO SCHOOL RECREATION:

CENTRE: NRIC in Oberammergau offers special ski packages in Garmisch/Bavaria, including Feb. 5-6 and Feb. 19-20, beginner ski lessons, 28 euros, lift 13 euros;

Feb. 12-13 and 26-27, beginner snowboarding lessons, 28 euros, lift 13 euros. Adult (ages 16 and up) lessons include 1.5 days of beginner instruction. C1 08822-9481-3102.

Web site: www.natoschool.net

RAMSTEIN OUTDOOR RECREATION (KNCI):

Feb. 5 and 12, Feldberg, Black Forest, \$60

including lift; DSN 480-5705 or C1 06371-47-5705.

SPANGDAHLE OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 18-20 and March 11-13, Gstaad, Switzerland, \$285 dorms, \$344 doubles, 25 percent discount for children under 12; Feb. 11-13, March 11-13, Black Forest, Feldberg, Germany, \$275 dorms, DSN 452-1710 or C1 06565-61-7176.

STUTTGART OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 5, March 12 and 18 and April 2, St. Gallenkirch, Austria, \$30 with equipment rental, \$45 Feb. 18-21, St. Gallenkirch, Austria, price TBA; April 10-17, St. Gallenkirch, Austria, \$590 adults, \$295 children. DSN 431-2774.

WIESSADEN OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Feb. 5, Black Forest (Feldberg), \$45; Feb. 11-13, \$84; Feb. 18-21, \$84; Feb. 12 and 26 Engelberg, Switzerland, \$55; Feb. 16, snowboard maintenance clinic, \$15; Feb. 19-20, Feldberg, Germany, Black Forest, \$175; DSN 337-5818 (Anderson Barracks) or DSN 334-5818 (Dexheim).





Alpine snow conditions

Resort	Snow Depth U/L*	ON	OFF	Piste Info	Resort Runs	Lifts Open	General Information
Kaunertal, AUS	130/50	Good	Varied	Varied	Fair	8/8	*All measurements are in centimeter Good snow at altitude
Mayrhofen, AUS	70/15	Good	Packed	Packed	22/24		Great skiing on well groomed pistes
Neustift, AUS	160/20	Excellent	Varied	Good	21/24		Very good piste cond., best at top
Pitztal, AUS	200/60	Good	Powder	Closed	7/7		Last week's new snow has kept well
St. Anton, AUS	220/60	Good	Varied	Good	47/83		Great skiing due to the recent snowfall
Zell Am See, AUS	108/25	Excellent	Varied	Hard	28/28		Very good piste cond., best at top
Chamonix, FR	180/65	Soft	Wind	Soft	46/47		Great skiing due to the recent snowfall
Les Deux Alpes, FR	120/50	Good	Varied	Good	43/54		Great skiing due to the recent snowfall
Val d'Isère, FR	145/120	Good	Varied	Good	45/47		Very good piste cond., best at top
Garmisch, GER	220/50	Good	Varied	Open	25/27		Plenty of good snow at altitude
Feldberg, GER	110/100	Good	Powder	Good	34/28		Great skiing thanks to new snow!
Cortina, IT	90/40	Packed	Varied	Fair	45/47		Plenty of good snow at altitude
Livigno, IT	128/46	Good	Packed	Good	32/32		Great skiing on well groomed pistes
Piasso Tonale, IT	100/70	Good	Packed	Hard	18/18		Very good piste cond., best at top
Engelberg, SW	250/120	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	25/25		Great skiing on well groomed pistes
Saas Fee, SW	240/51	Excellent	Varied	Hard	22/22		Great skiing on well groomed pistes
Verbier, SW	145/60	Excellent	Powder	Good	32/36		Superb cond., plenty of nice snow
Zermatt, SW	260/160	Excellent	Wind	Excellent	26/30		Great snow cond., throughout area

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Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule

Kaiserslautern Tel: 0631 9631-1336-7751
Feb. 4-6 Ski Weekend, Garmisch, Germany
Feb. 5 Ski Express, St. Anton, Austria
Feb. 5 Ski Express, Feldberg, Germany
Feb. 11-13 Ski Weekend, Loos-Flims, Switzerland
Mannheim Tel: 0621 730 7215
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Feb. 5 Skiing, Engelberg, Switzerland
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Feb. 12 Skiing, Feldberg, Germany

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Courtesy of www.swiss-image.com

Young ibexes stand on the Monte Rosa massif, high above Zermatt, Switzerland.

Get chills

Enjoy the beauty of Europe's slopes

BY ARNIE WILSON

The Guardian

The need for speed? Why? Steep gorges? Forget them. Savage bump runs? Don't need them.

Chest-deep powder? What's that? Cliff-drops — leave them to the professionals.

That is the view of many skiers who take to the slopes for beautiful, balmy, breezy, easy runs. Not bunny slopes, but lovely gentle cruisers. You know the sort of thing: uncomplicated, easy, effortless "blue" runs — runs marked in

blue on resort guides and maps.

Henry Hoek expressed it perfectly in his 1933 book *eulogising skiing in Switzerland*. "Blessed are the bad ski runners! For theirs is the landscape. Blessed are the duffers! For they may take it easy."

One of the problems about being a novice is that you often find yourself flailing about on beginner slopes at the bottom of the mountain where you can't see the best scenery. A few resorts, like Les Deux Alpes, France, have their bunny slopes at the top of the mountain, often on mellow

glaciers. So the long blue runs from the Glacier de Mont-de-Lans at Les Deux Alpes provide wonderful views of the mighty Meije and other great peaks of the Dauphiné Alps.

It's amazing how even world-class skiers love to slow down.

"I don't always want to ski flat-out," says Franz Klammer, still the only man to have won 25 World Cup downhill. "I like to stop and admire the view."

"Stop and smell the roses" says Konrad Bartelski, who missed being the fastest skier in the world by 11-hundredths of a second in 1981 at Val Gardena, Italy.

So here we go on the great blue trail of beautiful and user-friendly ski runs.

Zermatt, Switzerland:

Few visitors can be unmoved by the spellbinding ski arena conjured by Zermatt and its world-famous icon, the Matterhorn and some of the gentlest skiing is found high on the sunny slopes of the Gornergrat.

How to get there with no stress? There's a train to the top. It's a truly mesmerising place, with stunning views. There is a large

The Matterhorn serves as the background for an airborne skier enjoying the

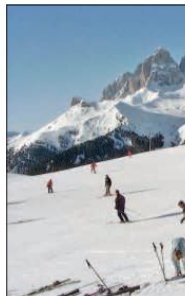
hotel at the top, the Kulm, with a wide, sunny terrace overlooking the Gorner glacier where you can pause before your descent to admire one of the greatest panoramas in the Alps.

Almost shoulder to shoulder, are Monte Rosa — at 14,290 feet second in the Alps only to Mont Blanc in altitude — Lyskamm, the twin peaks of Castor and Pollux, Breithorn and the Klein Matterhorn, where Europe's highest cable car takes skiers and boarders to the Italian border. The runs toward Riffelberg — Standard and its variants, Gifftli, Riffelhorn and Rothenboden — are simple, and the views of the Matterhorn sublime.

Jerusalem,

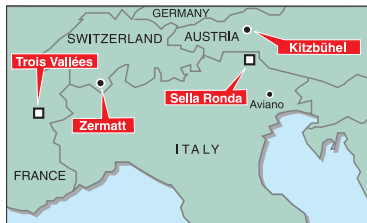
Trois Vallées, France

Most skiers exploring the Trois Vallées (probably the largest linked collection of ski resorts in the world) are so busy rushing across from Méribel to Les Menuires, en route for Val Thorens, that as they crest the Tignes ridge on their feverish way to Les Menuires, they don't notice Jerusalem, a wonderful roller-coaster piste down to St. Martin de Belleville, the only traditional resort in the region.



Skiers finish another run en route to Italian Dolomites.

It's their loss. This is one of the most delightful runs in the whole of the three valleys. For the most part, it is perfectly groomed mini-motorway, with gentle ups and downs. St. Martin is also a delight, and the perfect place for lunch in a sublime old-world setting for those not intent on high mileage.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



CHRISTOF SONDEREGGER/Zermatt Tourist office

beauty and thrills of the Zermatt ski resort.



Stars and Stripes file photo

completing the Sella Ronda in the

Sella Ronda, Südtirol, Italy

Best riding the breathtakingly scenic Dolomite regions of Italy's Südtirol and Trentino is another all-day circuit called the Sella Ronda. Again, the skiing isn't difficult, but stamina will definitely help. At the center, soaring into a cornflower blue sky, are the gigantic limestone monoliths of the Gruppo Sella. Mercifully, you are not expected to ski down them. All you have to do is ski around them.

This delightful and not particularly challenging 31-mile tour can be achieved fairly easily in a day. Mountain villages and towns seem to drift past you all day as you cruise effortlessly (apart from a few flat sections — snowboarders note) through the picturesque towns and villages of Colfosco, Corvara and San Cassiano, on through the wooded slopes of Canazei.

Pengelstein-Süd, Kitzbühel, Austria

One of the prettiest runs in Kitzbühel's circuit is the idyllic Pengelstein-Süd piste down towards Jochberg. It's marked red for some reason, but it's really

only a blue, albeit a long one so novices would find it quite a marathon.

The great joy of this run, apart from its bucolic ambience as you drift through snow-blanketed meadows and then down a gentle path through the snow-laden forest above Hechenmoos, is if there are two of you of different standards and expectations, it's the perfect solution. While the more tentative skier meanders down the piste, the powder-skiing partner can romp happily through field after field of wonderfully fresh powder — each visible to the other — until both of you reach the exquisite path through the snow-laden forest above Hechenmoos.

En route, you can fortify yourselves at the tiny Kasereckhütte with a simple al fresco meal of *Erbensuppe mit Würstl* — pea soup with sausage. This run is liable to be blissfully empty from this winter now that Kitzbühel has installed a major gondola across the Saukaser Valley between the resort's two main areas, Hahnenkamm-Pengelstein and Jochberg-Pass Thurn.

Arnie Wilson is editor of *Ski & Board*, the magazine of the Ski Club of Great Britain, and author of "Top Ski Resorts of the World."



Courtesy of www.swiss-image.com

Here's a guy who knows the great places to hang. This St. Bernard chills by the Matterhorn, in Canton Valais, Switzerland.



AP

The Austrian mountain resort of Kitzbühel is a favorite for its quaintness.

Carnival events



Patricia Andueza, the 2005 Carnival Queen in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, doesn't appear to feel a bit overdressed as she wears a fantasy costume during her selection last week.

AP photos

A street character blows a mouthful of fire Saturday as he leads a parade to open the Carnival celebrations in Venice's St. Mark's square.



Here is a sampling of remaining Carnival events in Europe. It's wise to check with local tourism boards before traveling to be sure dates have not changed.

BELGIUM

Aalst Carnival, Feb. 6-8
Carnival of Binche, Feb. 6-8
Stavelot, March 6

FRANCE

Chamonix, Feb. 9
Dunkerque, Feb. 6 and 13
Granville, Mardi Gras Carnival, Feb. 5-8
Nice, Feb. 12-27
Blarnes, Pau, Feb. 2-6
Sarreguemines, Lorraine, through Feb. 9
Mulhouse, Feb. 12-13
Bensancon, March 12-14
Marseille, March 19

GERMANY

erlin, Feb. 6
Buchen, Feb. 3-8
Düsseldorf, Feb. 3-7
Cologne, Feb. 3-8, web site: www.colognecarnival.com
Frankfurt, Feb. 6
Oberammergau, Feb. 8
Mainz, Feb. 5-7, Web site: www.mainz.de
Mittenwald, Upper Bavaria, Feb. 7
Munich, Feb. 6-8
Schwaben, Feb. 3-8
Villingen, Feb. 3-8

HUNGARY

Mohacs, Feb. 3-8, Buso parade Feb. 6
 Web site: www.gotohungary.com



In the Spanish Basque village of Iturem, Spain, people dress up to frighten the village spirits at the start of the holiday of Zampantzar, one of the first European Carnival holidays of the season.

ITALY

Acireale, Sicily, through Feb. 8
Castelnuovo a Volturno, Feb. 6
Folano, Feb. 6 and 13
Ivrea, Feb. 3-8
Madonna di Campiglio, through Feb. 11
Oristano, Sardinia, Feb. 6 and 8
Putignano, Feb. 6 and 8
Sciacca, Feb. 3-8
Sondria, Feb. 3, 6, 8
Viareggio, Feb. 6, 8 and 13
Verona, Feb. 4
Venice, through Feb. 8
Florence, Feb. 5-6

SPAIN

Aguias, Murcia, Feb. 3-12
Barcelona, Feb. 3-9
Cádiz, Andalusia, Feb. 3-13
Ciudad Rodrigo, Salamanca, Feb. 4-8
Güimar, Canary Is'ls, Feb. 11

La Palma, Canary Islands, Feb. 7-9
Malaga, Feb. 6
Ourense, Galicia, Feb. 5-8
Sitges, Feb. 3-9
Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, through Feb. 13
Vianova i la Geltru, through Feb. 9
Vilanova de la Vera, Feb. 6-8

SWITZERLAND

Basel, Feb. 14-16
Lucerne, Feb. 3-8
Zurich, Feb. 11-13

THE NETHERLANDS

Maastricht, Feb. 6-8
Landelijk, Feb. 22-26

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Tours/Outdoors

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These are Outdoor Recreation tours and events that have been sent to Stripes Travel. If you do not see your base Outdoor Recreation program represented, contact it directly.

Send listings via e-mail at least two weeks ahead of the desired publication date to mail@stripes.com. If you have questions, call (+49) (0) 6155-60-268.

GERMANY

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 12, Amsterdam Express, one-day sightseeing, \$85 adults, children half price. Call DSN 485-7182 or 06763-6-7182 or go to www.armygermany.com.
The Edelweiss Lodge and Resort at Garmisch, Germany: offers tours, ski lessons and outdoor events for adults and children. Call DSN 440-2575, CIV 08821-72981, or visit www.afroeur.com.

Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 26, Rottenburg, Germany folksmarch, \$40. Call DSN 489-7751 or CIV 0631-536-7751.

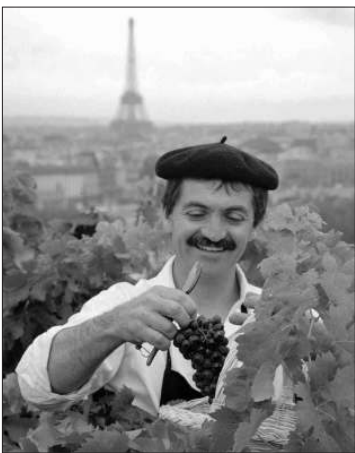
Katterbach Outdoor Recreation: "One-Day Wander" trips: Feb. 9, Geomars, Gerolzhofen; Feb. 24, Würzburg Exchange. Transportation is provided free. Call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 08902-83-3225.

Mannheim Outdoor Recreation: March 12 and 26, April 16 and 30, paintball day, \$15 with own equipment; \$20 with ODR equipment; April 23, indoor climbing.

April 24, Europa Amusement Park, \$30 for bus, plus park admission fees of 26 euros adults, 16 euros children 4-11. Call DSN 38-72157232 or CIV 0621-730-72157232.
Ramstein (KMC) RTC Destinations Unlimited: Feb. 6, 12, 20, and 27, Rhine Castles, cruise and wine tasting, \$89; Feb. 7, Carnival in Mainz/Fesching and Rose Monday Parade, \$39; Feb. 12, King Ludwig's castles (Neuschwanstein and Linderhof) including stop at the Wieskirche, \$99; Feb. 18-20, Prague and Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, \$189; Feb. 19-20, Brussels and Brugge, \$169; Feb. 26, tour of Cochem Castle and knight's dinner, \$89; Feb. 19, Jallhouse Bash, entertainment in a 19th-century castle, \$139; Feb. 26, tour of Cochem Castle and knight's dinner, \$89, adults only.

Flight tours from Frankfurt: **March 13-20**, Moscow and St. Petersburg, 1049 euros (flight, hotels, overnight tour, admissions, tours and lunches); **April 8-15**, Egypt, 1139 euros (flight, hotels, tours, admissions, three-day Nile cruise); **April 9-16**, Beijing and Xi'an, China, including Great Wall, Forbidden City, Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors, 1329 euros for flight, tours, admissions, many meals and transportation.

For all tours, contact WWW for German cities: 480-6339/489-7064/496-7719, or go to www.RTTTravel.com.



On the roof of a Parisian general store with the Eiffel tower in the background, a wine grower cuts a bunch of red grapes from one of the 110 vine stocks brought from southern France to Paris for sale. The French government has committed more than \$91 million in aid to the country's struggling wine industry, which has been hit by falling consumption at home and increased competition in export markets.

Spangdahlem Outdoor Recreation: Club members receive 10 percent off any ODR daytrip by showing club card. **Feb. 9**, intro to Scuba, \$35 per person. Call DSN 452-7170 or COMMO 06565-61-7170 for more information.

Spangdahlem Information, Tickets and Travel: Feb. 4-5, Carnevale Express in Venice, \$125; Feb. 4-5, Carnevale express in Venice, \$125 per person; Feb. 5, Amsterdam and Zaanse Schans, \$79 adult, \$72 child; Feb. 7, Rose Monday in Cologne, Germany, \$44 adult, \$39 child; Feb. 11-12, Karlsbad crystal and Czech fine market, \$69;

Feb. 12, dinner and wine tasting in the Mosel Valley, \$58; **Feb. 12-13**, Paris overnight with city tour, Louvre museum and river cruise, \$249 adult, \$229 child; **Feb. 18-19**, Prague city and shopping, \$90 adult, \$85 child; **Feb. 19**, Strasburg, \$39; **Feb. 25-26**, Berlin express, \$105 adult, \$95 child; **Feb. 26**, medieval dinner in Cochem Castle, \$79; **Feb. 26-27**, Amsterdam and Brugge, Belgium, with overnight stay, \$179 adult, \$159 child. Call DSN 452-6567 or CIV 06565-61-6567.

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 14, ice skating trip to Frankfurt. Call DSN 337-5760.

USO Kaiserslautern: Feb. 19, Military Heritage Tour to Bastogne, site of the Battle of the Bulge, \$59; Feb. 5, Worms city tour, \$39 adults, \$29 children; Feb. 5, Metz, France,

adults, \$79 children; **March 5**, Military Heritage Tour, Nuremberg and the Third Reich, \$69; **March 5**, Easter egg market in Muehlstadt, ivory museum and court's castle, \$59 adults, \$49 children; **March 5**, Paris city tour, \$99 adults, \$95 children; **March 5**, Trier city tour, \$49 adults, \$45 children; **March 12**, Cochem Castle tour and wine tasting, \$55 adults, \$45 children; **March 12**, German train orientation and trip to Speyer with city tour, Technik Museum and IMAX Theater, \$39 adults, \$35 children; **March 12**, Maasricht, Holland, city tour, \$59 adults, \$55 children; **March 20**, theatre evening in Frankfurt, "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," \$55; **April 7-11**, two nights in London, \$449 adults, \$429 children, single supplement \$160; **April 12-17**, Italian Spring Film, Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, Pisa and Florence, \$699 adults, \$679 children, single supplement \$195; **April 23-24**, Holland overnight including Keukenhof Gardens, flower parade and Delft, \$249 adults, \$229 children, single supplement \$35.

Contact the USO at Vogelweh Main Exchange shopping center, DSN 489-6033, CIV 0631-536-6033, Ramstein Passenger Terminal, DSN 489-6335, CIV 06371-42623; Landstuhl Hospital, DSN 486-8240, CIV 06371-63463, Kleber Kaserne, Army In-Aid Of Processing Center, DSN 483-7997, CIV 0631-46237; USO Administrative Offices, Pulaski Barracks, DSN 489-7233, CIV 0631-536-7233, tours office phone: DSN 489-7640, CIV 0631-536-7640.

USO Rhein-Neckar (Darmstadt-Heidelberg-Mannheim): Feb. 5, Frankfurt orientation, \$20; Feb. 5, Evelin's wellness spa, body draining wrap, 105 euros for procedure and \$29 for transportation; **Feb. 8**, Ladenburg orientation, \$10; **Feb. 10**, Speyer orientation, \$10; **Feb. 10**, Speyer orientation, \$10; **Feb. 12**, Valentine overnight at Hirschhorn castle, \$130 per double occupancy; **Feb. 15**, Mannheim orientation, \$5.

Contact USO Darmstadt at DSN 384-7918; USO Heidelberg at DSN 370-7264; and USO Mannheim at DSN 385-3195.
Italy
USO Naples: Feb. 11-14, Valentine's day in Paris, including airfare, transfers, three nights in central hotel and guided tour, \$88 euros; **Feb. 12-13**, Sweetheart Weekend with overnight in Florence and guided tour, 169 euros (over 18 only); **Feb. 19-20**, Umbria, with visits to Assisi, Perugia and Deruta, 169 euros; **Feb. 26-27**, Tuscany, including visits to Siena and San Gimignano and wine tasting, 169 euros. One-day tours are also available. Call DSN 626-5713 for details.
USO Rome offers regular tours, including visits to major monuments, Vatican city and papal audiences. Call DSN 626-5713 for details. Check the Web site (www.uso.it) for tours, prices and times.

Let's Go

BY JAYNE TRAENDLY
Special to Stars and Stripes

Tuscany in spring

Enjoy Italy's Tuscany region of Italy from April 9 to 16 with the Meyer Travel group.

The group will be based in Florence. The program includes a city tour that stops at the Accademia to see Michelangelo's David and visits to San Gimignano, Luca, Siena and a winery.

The price is \$1,375 per person, double occupancy, and includes round-trip airfare from Frankfurt, Germany; six nights' lodging in a four-star hotel, all breakfasts and one dinner; tour of Florence and excursions to Siena, Luca, San Gimignano and winery (with tastings); transfers and tour escort.

Contact Kate Meyer at e-mail meyerr@juno.com or Mike Curley at telephone (+49) (0) 6384-514838 or e-mail mikecurley@aol.com. The Web site is www.meyertourgroup.com.

Basketball camp

If you're a boy or girl from 11 to 19 and want to learn, play, breathe and eat basketball this summer, get your parents to sign you up for the 12th annual International TGV Basketball Camp in Würzburg, Germany.

There are three sessions: five days from July 29 to Aug. 2, Aug. 2 to Aug. 6, or one day from July 29 to Aug. 6.

Coaches are professional players and trainers, with one to every eight participants. Activities include seven indoor full courts, two indoor half courts and two outside full courts; weight and conditioning room; and modern gymnasium. The program includes conditioning, station drills, scrimmages and stretches — playing the equivalent of nine games at each session. Events center around games and theory. Other activities are mini-golf and swimming in nearby Dallenberg-bad.

The cost per person for the five-day camp is 235 euros, for the nine-day camp, 440 euros. The price includes basketball court instruction, use of the sports complex facilities, supervised sleeping facilities, full board with energy-carbohydrate diet, on-site physician, training handbook and personal evaluation.

To register, contact Scherer Tours at telephone (+49) (0) 931-40 90 46 or fax (+49) (0) 931-40 80 20.

Ski Salzburg

Visiting Salzburg, Austria, but would like to do a little skiing? Up to March 13, you can take the Snow Shuttle, which leaves daily at 8:30 a.m. from Mirabell Square in the city and travels to neighboring ski resorts (Ober-tauern, Gastein, Kitzbühel, Schladming, Flachau, Leogang-Salbach-Hinterglemm, Zell am See). The cost is 13 euros.

For reservations, call (+43) (0) 662/87 17 12. The tourist board telephone is (+43) (0) 662/88 99 300.

The Web site www.salzburg.info includes several accommodation packages.

Volksmarch

The members of the Gehörlösen-Wanderfreunde Winnenden e.V., Germany, are hosting their fourth Narren-March this coming Faschings Tuesday. The 5K and 10K marches will start between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.; you must finish by 5 p.m. A special Faschings menu will be offered at the Buchenbachhalle, the start hall in Winnenden-Birkmannsweller. B-medals in limited quantities are the prize of the day.

Miscellaneous notes about this week's volksmarch events:

Jennifer West



Volksmarchers living in the Eifel, Baumholder and Kaiserslautern, Germany, areas have the opportunity to attend two close walks this weekend at Klein-ich and Ramstein.

Located northwest of Idar-Oberstein, and in the vicinity of Kleinich, the Verbandsgemeinde Bernkatal-Kues holds its 29th anniversary walk each day beginning at 8 a.m. The last start times are 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday for the 5-, 10- and 15-kilometer trails. The club has no awards this year. Visit the Mosel town of Bernkatal-Kues while you're in the area.

Ramstein's 5- and 10-kilometer walks begin both days between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. while the 20-kilometer trail begins 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. You need to finish the trails on Saturday and Sunday by 5 p.m. The award for this event, which begins in the Ramstein-Miesenbach Reichswald-Hauptschule, is a B-medal (previous years' prize) in limited quantities.

Marchers at Forstfeld, France, may want to visit the local town of Souffienheim, known for its earth-colored pottery. After walking Forstfeld's 10-kilometer trail on Sunday, walking through the open shops in

Here are events sanctioned by the International Federation of Popular Sports (Internationaler Volkssportverband, or IVV) near U.S. military installations in Europe. Locations are noted in the host language when possible. Find more extensive lists on the Web at www.ivv.org.

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
Belgium						
Clermont-sur-Berwinne	Sat & Sun 0700-1430	-	6 & 12	Salle St-Jean	Sticker	SW of Aachen, GE
Clermont-sur-Berwinne	Sat 0800-1200, Sun 0700-1200	-	21	Salle St-Jean	Sticker	SW of Aachen, GE
Clermont-sur-Berwinne	Sat 0700-1000	M	42	Salle St-Jean	Patch	SW of Aachen, GE
Niel	Sun 0800-1500	-	6 & 12	KTA Campus	No award	S of Antwerpen
Niel	Sun 0800-1500	-	18 & 24	KTA Campus	No award	S of Antwerpen
France						
Forstfeld	Sun 0800-1400	F	10	Salle polyvalente	No award	NE of Haguenau
Germany						
Aschbach	Sat & Sun 0700-1200	F	6 & 12	Mehrzweckhalle	Beer glass	FRO, NE of Kitzingen
Freystadt	Sat 0800-1200, Sun 0700-1200	F	5 & 10	Mehrzweckhalle	OPF, SW of Neumarkt	
Grombach	Sat 0700-1500	BF	6 & 10	Schlossberghalle	B-medal	BNW, NW of Heilbronn
Kleinich	Sat 0800-1430, Sun 0800-1400	CF	5, 10, 15	Gemeindehaus	No award	RP, NW of Idar-Oberstein
Ramstein	Sat & Sun 0730-1400	BFX	5 & 10	Reichswald Hauptschule	B-medal	RP, NW of Kaiserslautern
Ramstein	Sat & Sun 0730-1300	BFX	20	Reichswald Hauptschule	B-medal	RP, NW of Kaiserslautern
Schwalbach-Griesborn	Sat 0800-1400, Sun 0800-1300	F	6 & 10	Gemeindehaus	No award	SAR, SE of Saarlautern
Winn-Birkmannsweller	Tue 0900-1500	BFX	5 & 10	Buchenbachhalle	B-medal	BNW, SE of Winnenden
Italy						
Chiesanuova	Sun 0830-0930	F	7, 12, 20	Sports complex	No award	W of Padova
San Salvo di Urbana	Sun 0830-0900	F	5, 11, 20	Town center	Bottle of wine	W of Padova
Valtenocello	Sun 0830-0900	F	6, 11, 21	Parochial building	Flowering plant	SW of Pordenone
Luxembourg						
Lintgen (Lentgen)	Sun 0800-1400	F	5 & 11	Schule	No award	N of Luxembourg city
United Kingdom						
Binfield	Sun 0900-1000	-	5 & 10	11 Beehive Lane	Souvenir	NW of Bracknell
Llanwrtyd Wells	Sat 0900-1000	-	15 & 24	Neuadd Arms Hotel	Souvenir	NE of Carmarthen
Llanwrtyd Wells	Sat 0900-1000	M	40	Neuadd Arms Hotel	Souvenir	NE of Carmarthen
Santon Downham	Sun 0900	-	10 & 20	Forestry Comm. Car Pk	No award	NW of Bedford
Turvey	Sun 0930	-	10 & 20	The Three Cranes	No award	NW of Bedford

GENERAL CODES:

B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)
 C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points
 D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall
 F - Free refreshment at control points
 M - Marathon or long-distance event

N - Nordic walking event
 P - Music at start hall
 S - Stroller-friendly trails
 s - Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly
 T - Evening/night walk, carry a flashlight
 X - Award available while supply lasts

W - Course suitable for wheelchairs
 Y - Young-Walkers-Tour or Bambini-Liga event
 Z - Reduced price of 2.50 euros for start card & B-medal
 3 - Reduced price of 3 euros for start card & B-medal

GERMAN STATE AND REGION CODES:

BNW - Baden-Württemberg Nord
 BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd
 FRO - Oberfranken (Upper Franconia)
 FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia)
 FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franconia)

HE - Hessen
 MOB - München-Oberbayern
 NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin
 NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen
 NDB - Niederbayern
 OPF - Oberpfalz

RP - Rheinland-Pfalz
 SAR - Saarland
 SCH - Schwaben
 SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg
 THS - Thüringen/Sachsen

Souffienheim that display their pottery, usually painted with bold colors.

Clark Seidner has these notes to contribute about walks in Italy:

• Chiesanuova is just off the

SS11 on the west side of Padova. This event begins at the Brenzela sports complex.

• Clermont-sur-Berwinne, Belgium, can also be found on your map by the name of Timmer-Clermont. It lies north of

Verriers and southwest of Aachen, Germany.

E-mail your comments and Volksmarch information to Jennifer West at volksmarch@mail.estripes.osd.mil. Write them at: Volksmarch-Committee, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS).

VOLKSMARCH WEB SITES

Canada
www.chebucto.ns.ca/recreation/cv/

Germany
<http://www.igv.org/clubs/germany/>,
www.dvv-wandern.de and
www.freeyellow.com/members/hivoc/index

Italy
<http://digilander.iol.it/stevens/walking.htm>

Netherlands
www.beaumo.ris.ca/afrcivwals

United Kingdom
www.bwfv-ivv.org.uk

United States
www.ava.org
 Information on volksmarching in the United States is also available from the American Volkssport Association, 1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101, Universal City, Texas 78148.

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Calendar

COMPILED BY JAYNE TRÄNDLY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are based on the latest information available at press time, but are subject to change. We recommend that you check with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event before traveling.

AUSTRIA

www.austria-info.at

VIENNA: Johann Strauss ball, **March 19**

VIENNA: Dream on ice, **through March 6**. Ice skating in front of the City Hall.

RAURIS: International Dog Sleigh Race on the Gold Trail, **Feb. 25-27**.

INNERKREMS: Dog sled races, European championship, **March 11-13**.

VIENNA: Easter market, **March 12-23**. Castle Schönbrunn.

HALL: Easter festival, **March 14, 19, 24-25**.

VIENNA: OsterKlang Festival, **March 18-28**.

SALZBURG: Easter festival, **March 19-28**.

BELGIUM

www.visitbelgium.com

THROUGHTOUT the country: Anniversary of 175 years of independence, **through 2005**.

BRUSSELS, WALLONIA: Beer 2005, **through 2005**.

BRUSSELS: Festival of fantastic film, **March 11-26**.

TOURNAI: Flower market, **March 25**.

CZECH REPUBLIC

www.visitczechia.cz

PRAGUE: Easter markets, **March 18-April 8**. Old Town and Wenceslas Squares.



AP

A young woman feeds swans, ducks and gulls Friday at the lake of Zurich in Rapperswil, Switzerland. The town is among many in Switzerland that have experienced severe cold snaps.

DENMARK

www.visitdenmark.com

THROUGHTOUT the country: Shrove tilting at the barrel, **Feb. 6-7**.

BILLUND: Legoland opens, **March 19-Oct. 30**.

ENGLAND

www.visitbritain.com

LONDON: Motorcycle show, **through Feb. 6**. Alexandra Palace.

LONDON: Daily Telegraph Destinations: Holiday and Travel Show, **through Feb. 6**. Earls Court.

YORK: Viking festival, **through Feb. 20**.

ST. IVES: Feast and hurling of the silver ball, **Feb. 7**.

DONCASTER: Festival of British Royal Models, **Feb. 12-13**.

LONDON: Chinese New Year celebrations, **Feb. 13**.

LONDON: Outdoor adventure show, **Feb. 18-20**.

LONDON: International tourist guide day, **Feb. 19**.

LONDON: National wedding show, **Feb. 25-27**. Olympia.

LONDON: Winter bearfest, **Feb. 27**. Kensington Town Hall.

HAMPTON COURT: Floriana, **March 4-7**. Floral displays at palace.

LONDON: Spit-it, **March 4-17**. Festival of women's writing in Spit-itfields.

LONDON: International dive show, **March 5-6**. ExCel Docklands.

BIRMINGHAM: Crafts dog show, **March 10-13**. NEC.

BIRMINGHAM: Hobbycrafts, **March 17-20**. NEC.

LONDON: Classical live, **March 18-23**. Classical music and instruments exhibit, Olympia.

LONDON: Head of the River race, **March 19**. River Thames.

BLACKPOOL: International hair and beauty festival, **March 20-21**.

LANCASTER: Easter maritime festival and Trafalgar victory fair, **March 25-28**.

YORK: Model railway show, **March 25-28**.

LONDON: Harness horse parade, **March 28**. Battersea Park.

LONDON: Stitch 2005, **March 31-April 3**. Needlecrafts, Olympia.

BIRMINGHAM: Go Fishing, **April 3**. Angling fair.

FRANCE

www.francetourism.com

METZ: Flea market, **Feb. 5, 19; April 2, 16; May 7, 21; June 4, 18; July 2, 16; Aug. 6; Oct. 29; Dec. 3, 17**. 6 a.m.-1 p.m.

PARIS: Chinese New Year celebrations, **Feb. 12**.

STRASBOURG: Annual winter store sales, **through Feb. 22**.

METZ: Annual winter store sales, **through Feb. 22**.

NYONS (Rhône-Alpes): New olive oil festival, **Feb. 5-6**.

PARIS: Chinese New Year celebrations, **Feb. 9**. Place d'Italie.

MENTON: Lemon festival, **Feb. 12-27**.

GERMANY

www.germany-tourism.de

BERLIN: International motorcycle show, **through Feb. 6**. Fair grounds.

SINGHEIM: Motorcycle exhibition, **Feb. 11-13**. Exhibition center.

BERLIN: International film festival, **Feb. 10-12**.

BERNAU (Black Forest): Dog sled races, **Feb. 12-13**.

HERSCHFRIED (Black Forest): **Feb. 19-20**.

MICHELSTADT: Easter egg market, **March 5-6**.

Best bets for the week

TRAVEL SHOW: Stuck for ideas on where to take a vacation? Then head to London's Daily Telegraph's Destinations: Holiday and Travel Show in Earl's Court through the weekend. It's the United Kingdom's largest travel show, offering tips from celebrities to country tourist boards and travel book companies such as Lonely Planet. Their suggestions range from African safaris to Transylvanian tours to holiday home stays.

Features of the show include:

- "Nine "Destination Sensations" zones with live events featuring international food, entertainment and fashion.

- "World Entertainment Stage."

- "Meet the Experts" theater, where show visitors can chat with exhibitors, celebrities, explorers and travel writers.

- A look at ethnic handicrafts and jewelry.

- Tips for how to enjoy England.

The show is open tonight (World Entertainment Night) until 8:30 p.m. Through the weekend it's open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets cost 10 pounds (about \$19). For details, go to the show's Web site at www.destinationshow.com.

VIKING VENUE: Vikings storm York, England, through Feb. 20, during the annual Jorvik Viking Festival. On the program you'll find Viking re-enactments, walking tours, lectures, crafts market, music and food. Children's activities start the first weekend, followed by the Viking invasion and finishing with sagas and songs. The festival is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For the full program, go to www.vikingjorvik.com.

—JAYNE TRÄNDLY

MUNICH: Strong Beer Festival, **March 4-20**.

HEIDELBERG: Long Night of the Museums, **March 19**.

HUNGARY

www.hungarytourism.hu

BUDAPEST: Spring festival, **March 19-April 4**.

HOLLOKO: Easter festival, **March 27-28**.

IRELAND

www.travel.ie

DUBLIN: St. Patrick's Day festival, **March 16-20**.

ITALY

www.italiantourism.com

PERUGIA: Black truffle week, **Feb. 25-27**.

FLORENCE: Explosion of the cart, **March 27**.

THE NETHERLANDS

www.holland.com/uk

ROTTERDAM: Art Rotterdam, **Feb. 23-28**. Cruise terminal.

ROTTERDAM: ABM AMRO World Tennis, **Feb. 14-20**. Ahoy.

AMSTERDAM: Hiswa, **March 1-6**. Water sports fair.

AMSTERDAM: AutoRAI, **Feb. 10-20**. International car show.

BRED: Antique show, **Feb. 24-27**.

MAASTRICHT: European fine arts fair, **March 4-13**.

SCOTLAND

www.visitscotland.com

GLASGOW: International comedy festival, **March 10-26**.

EDINBURGH: Easter festival, **March 24-28**.

HAWKICK (Borders): Reivers festival, **March 25-27**. Historical festival.

SPAIN

www.tourspain.co.uk

VALENCIA: Las Fallas, **March 14-19**.

THROUGHTOUT the country: Holy Week, **March 20-27**.

SEVILLE: Spring fair, **April 12-17**.

SWITZERLAND

www.switzerlandtourism.ch

BASEL: World money fair, **Feb. 11-13**. Coin fair.

GENEVA: International car show, **March 3-13**.

Fax: (39) 6698-85100

WALES

www.visitwales.co.uk

CARDIFF: St. David's Day parade, **March 1**.

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Horoscope

The sun and Neptune dance closely this afternoon, unearthing something that was buried in the subconscious. This could be as simple as "I forgot to pick up my dry cleaning last week" or as profound as "So that's what my mother meant when she told me that story when I was 6!" Acting on the impulse of this discovery is exceedingly lucky.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 3). There's drama around you, but your brilliant handling of conflict is what sets you apart this year. The turmoil is really your opportunity to step in and take your "game" to a whole new level. Your income leaps up, and so does your self-esteem in the next 10 weeks. Singles find that romance with a Taurus or Gemini boosts energy in many areas of life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Your outer uniqueness is featured, and you don't have to do a thing besides be yourself. Ah, but there's the rub. Who are you? The question that was once so easily answered is now puzzling.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You're doing your part to wipe out a stain of sorts. You probably didn't cause the mess, but being the responsible soul you are, you step up to make things right. Your rewards will be great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

It was Napoleon who said, "It is with baubles that men are led." Medals, titles and uniforms play a part in your motivation toward a goal, but make sure that such trappings are not your primary motivation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Mental alertness and physical agility go hand in hand. You're downright sprightly! Don't waste this fantastic energy on mundane tasks. Go deeper into finding your purpose, and see if that doesn't change your schedule.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You learn from the giants now. Some of

them are dead, and you must read about them, but others are alive, and this is the perfect time to write them! A fan letter could open up your world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're impatient to skip ahead. When your skills are so exceptional that everyone notices, and your attitude is so positive that you bring everyone else up, too, higher-ups can't help but promote you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Examine your legacy. The dreams of your father or mother are being played out in your life in some way. It's lucky to give credit where credit is due and also to realize what is yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

When love comes too quickly forward, your instinct is to take quick steps back. But if you rush forward, too, you might find that you've got more control of the situation. Seize your power.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Recent technological developments are a big help—that is, if you take the time to learn properly. However, a haphazard approach to learning could cause you more trouble than good. Be thorough.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

The key to exuding confidence is doing your homework. A job or client opportunity that comes your way needs to be researched—this is important. Someone with a crush on you will reveal a bit of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Accept goodhearted gestures of kindness from others. Don't be surprised if a friend comes over to help you with the baby-sitting, laundry and finding a date for the wedding all in one fell swoop.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

If you're truly doing your best to expand your horizons, you'll feel like a fish out of water. So just know that some degree of discomfort is necessary to the evolutionary process. Good for you.

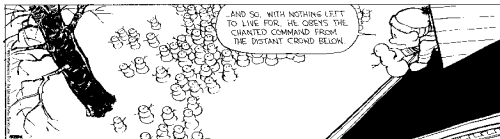
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Holiday Mathis



lucky to give credit where credit is due and also to realize what is yours.

Calvin and Hobbes



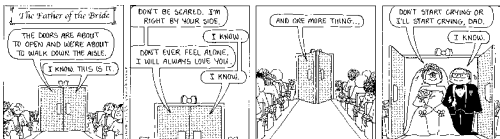
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Many theories for helping 'Papa'

Dear Abby: Your advice to "Fed Up in N.Y.," whose father-in-law scoots off in his motorized wheelchair to the local bar a mile away and returns home drunk, missed one point. The bar has a legal responsibility not to allow customers to leave drunk, and instead of serving drunk customers, to cut them off.

"Fed Up" should go to the bar with the police and inform the bartender and management that the next time they "over-serve" "Papa Jake," she'll see it to that the New York state liquor license people get an earful, and if anything happens to Papa Jake, or he causes injury to anyone in his drunken conduct on the way home, the bar will share in that responsibility.

I'll bet a gin and tonic after that the bar will cut Papa Jake off long before he gets drunk.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: Why didn't you suggest counseling for that poor man? Obviously, Papa Jake is wounded and has too much idle time on his hands. After he has been given a thorough physical and mental evaluation, he needs to be introduced to AA, as well as activities that could spark his creative talents.

— Jessica in Tennessee

Dear Jessica: I'm sure that at the time of his stroke and afterward, Papa Jake received physical and neurological evaluations. However, if he's willing to admit he has an alcohol problem,

AA could be helpful. (And so could Al-Anon for "Fed Up" and her husband.) They might also consider contacting the American Stroke Association, which maintains a listing of telephone support groups for stroke survivors, their families, friends and interested professionals. The toll-free number is 888-4STROKE.

Dear Abby: As a follow-up to the letter from "Fed Up in N.Y.," whose father-in-law was using his motorized scooter to travel to a bar, I suggest that she or her husband disconnect the battery to his scooter. I hope this is helpful.

— Philip C. Houston

Dear Philip: It might prove helpful, but only as a last resort.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINES

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BICAN

THOUPS

www.jumble.com

DUSARI

A: A

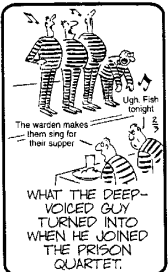
Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: PUPIL UNITY TANGLE HERESY
Answer: One too many made him do this — SLEEP "TIGHT"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: PUPIL UNITY TANGLE HERESY
Answer: One too many made him do this — SLEEP "TIGHT"

Support mom's choice of boyfriend

Dear Annie: I am in my early 20s and am now living with my mother after having been on my own for a while. Mom has been seeing a man named "Dan" for two years, and I just found out that they are engaged, although I haven't officially been told yet.

Dan and his 13-year-old son moved in with us in August, and it has been a difficult transition. Dan is a clean freak, and he goes crazy over a dish in the sink or a stain on the counter. He also is a racist. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard him use offensive, derogatory ethnic slurs. When I bring it up to my mother, she defends him, saying he was raised in a different time in a different place. Personally, I don't think that's a good excuse.

I cannot ever criticize Dan, because my mother always takes his side, no matter what, and

Annie's Mailbox



says I'm insensitive for giving him grief.

Now that they are engaged, I feel close to a nervous breakdown. I loved my father very much, and when he died four years ago, I took it very hard. I try to envision the future, and Dan just doesn't fit in. When I have kids, I don't want them to know him as their grandfather. What should I do?

— Losing It

Dear Losing: No matter how odious a choice your mother has made, it's HER choice, and you must find a way to live with it. Instead of criticizing Dan — or worse, comparing him to your father — try kindness and caring. Tell Mom you understand that she doesn't want to be alone, but you are concerned that Dan may not make her happy.

Meanwhile, start saving your money so you don't have to share living quarters, and if Mom mar-

ries Dan, do your best to be civil to your new stepfather. It will allow you to keep your relationship with your mother.

Dear Annie: The other day at breakfast, I read your column about wives of retired husbands who go bananas with hubby at home. Feeling very superior on this score, I asked across the table to my wife of 51-plus years: "I don't drive you bananas since I retired, do I?"

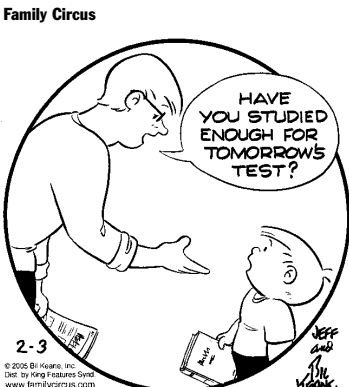
Without missing a beat she responded: "Oh, no, no. You did that long before retiring." Sigh.

— Martin

Dear Martin: Thanks for making us laugh. We needed that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate



2-3

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"That depends on how hard it's going to be."



Dennis the Menace



"I BROUGHT YOU A FLYSWATTER TO GET RID OF THAT LITTLE PEST YOU SAID KEEPS COMIN' INTO YOUR HOUSE."

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Hey! I can hear the traffic!"

Non Sequitur



WELL, IN LINDSEY'S TERM, THANK YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR FREAKIN' HAND.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9-00	Stanley	Movie: "Sudden Terror: The Locking of School Bus No. 17" (1986, Suspense) Maria Conchita Alonso, Marley Walcott	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Philadelphia 76ers. From the Washington Center in Philadelphia. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9-30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat			Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News		Low Carb & Lovin' It	Headline News
10-00	Arthur (E)		(9-40) Oprah Winfrey	ESPN/News	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPN/News
10-30	Reading Rainbow (E)		(3-35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Shave Star	Pacific Report
11-00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10-47) Movie: "The Untouchables" (1987, Drama) Kevin Costner, Sean Connery, Robert De Niro	(11-7) General Hospital	Two and a Half Men	The O'Reilly Factor		E! News Live	Two and a Half Men
11-30	Stanley: Up the Apple Tree!		Headline News	Will & Grace		SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Will & Grace
12-00	The Wiggles			Alisa's "Broken Heart"	60 Minutes	NFL Live	Guinness	Desperate Housewives
12-30	Bob the Builder: Storm	Movie: "Desperately Seeking Susan" (1985, Comedy) Rebecca Pidgeon, Comely, Renee Russo	Today Time Turner, Today: Today	Crime Scene Investigation "Turning the Screws"	Fox and Friends	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Portland Trail Blazers. From the Rose Garden in Portland, Ore. (Taped)	Charm'd: "Apocalypse, No!"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Turning the Screws"
13-00	Dragon Tales (E)			Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Aly McBeal "Another One Like This"	Pacific Report
14-00	Blue's Clues			The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "It's About the Heart"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
14-30	Barny & Friends (E)	(2-50) Movie: "Point of No Return" (1993, Drama) Bridget Fonda, Gabriel Byrne, Dennis Quaid	Laugh! Real Monsters	Late Show With David Letterman	CNN Live Today	NFL Total Access	Third Watch "Young Men and Fire"	Late Show With David Letterman
15-00	Funtastic Home Videos		Sabrina, the Animated Series	NBA Inside Stuff		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Surrender Dorothy"	Access Hollywood
16-00	Pokemon	Coming Attractions	Headline News	Headline News	The Late Late Show			Headline News
16-30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Nobah's Secret"			Destinations	Dennis Miller	College Basketball Duke at Wake Forest.	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
17-00	The Wild Thornberrys	Ebert-Movies	AFN Evening News	Two and a Half Men	60 Minutes		Everybody Loves Raymond	Everybody Loves Raymond
18-00	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight		Countdown With Keith Olsen	FOX News		The Practice "Special Deliveries"	Countdown With Keith Olsen
19-00	That '80s Haven	Movie: "Dances With Wolves" (1990, Western) Kevin Costner, Mary McCormack, Graham Greene, A.U.S. Cavalry of the north vision of the American frontier.	Headline News	Desperate Housewives "Who's That Woman?"	FOX News	ESPN/News	NBA Football: NBA highlights, analysis, look-ins.	Entertainment Studios.com
20-00	'Nt Heaven 'Live and Death' (Part 1 of 2)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Turning the Screws"	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith		48 Hours Mystery "The Canal Street Mystery"	The Hot List
21-00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Friends	Headline News
22-00	Home Improvement	(2-20) Movie: "Star Trek: Insurrection" (1998) Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Late Show-Letterman	Lester Holt Live	NFL Live	Sinfeld "The Stand-In"	Good Morning America
23-00	Touched by an Angel "Full Circle"					Parade the Interruption	Around the Horn	Blind Date

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005

00-00	AAahh! Real Monsters	"Star Trek: Insurrection"	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00-30	Rocky Power	(1-18) Movie: "Aliens" (1986, Science Fiction) Sigourney Weaver, Michael Biehn, Lance Reddick, Lance Reddick, a task force space to eradicate a noxious force species.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	NFL Films Presents	American Idol	Bear in the Big Blue House
1-00	The Family OddParents		College Basketball North Carolina State at North Carolina. (Live)	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	NBC Nightly News Tonight	NBA Action	Andromeda "Tunnel at the End of the Light"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
1-30	Rugrats			Wheel of Fortune	CSI Evening News		Codemans: Secrets From the Grave	Wheel of Fortune
2-00	That '80s Haven			Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	15th NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Miami Heat. From the American Airlines Arena in Miami. (Live)	Friends	Dr. Phil
2-30	Al Fieat			Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes		Friends	Oprah Winfrey
3-00	'Nt Heaven 'Live and Death' (Part 1 of 2)	Movie: "Never Say Die" (1986, Science Fiction) Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner	College Basketball Seton Hall at Grinnell. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Los Angeles Lakers. From Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Live)	Breathin' Fresh Yoga	Headline News
3-30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report		Caribbean Workout	Judge Judy
4-00	Sesame Street (E)	(4-58) Movie: "Money Train" (1986, Suspense) Wesley Snipes, William Hamilton, Jennifer Lopez, a forest cop's sister brother plays a subway robbery.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Body Shopping	Headline News
5-00	Barny & Friends (E)		Headline News	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	Inside the NBA	Typical Mary Ellen	Headline News
6-00	Dragon Tales (E)		Bear in the Big Blue House	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	Ozzy & Drix	BET Nightly News	Emeri Live	Ozzy & Drix
6-30	Blue's Clues "Environments"		Wheel of Fortune	Codemans: Kids Next Door	Tavis Smiley	PGA Golf F&R Open - First Round. From the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale in Scottsdale, Ariz. (Taped)	Decorating Den	Codemans: Kids Next Door
7-00	Bob the Builder		Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Headline News		E! News Live	Headline News
8-00	The Wiggles		(9-46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Headline News		The King of Queens	Headline News
8-30	Dora the Explorer		(3-35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E! News Live	Headline News
9-00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10-48) Movie: "True Lies" (1994) Arnold Schwarzenegger: A man lies the double life of a spy and a 2001 Oscar.	(11-7) General Hospital	The O.C. "The Distance"		Inside the NFL	That '70s Show "Hot Dog"	Headline News
10-00	Arthur (E)		Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Barnes"	Primetime Thursday	College Basketball UCLA at Washington State. (Taped)	Charm'd "Be Careful What You Wish For"	The Apprentice
10-30	Reading Rainbow (E)		Today Super Bowl treats: It's Cool Time, Timothy Goobal.	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends		Aly McBeal "What If I Never Do for Love Again"	Pacific Report
11-00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie: "Never Say Die" (1986, Science Fiction) Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "You Promises?"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
11-30	Stanley: Up the Apple Tree!		Teacher's Pet Dog park (E)	Late Show With David Letterman	American Morning	NFL Total Access	Third Watch "The Lost"	Late Show With David Letterman
12-00	Dora the Explorer		What's New Scooby-Doo?	Ozzy & Drix	CNN Live Today		Law & Order "Unfettered"	Headline News
12-30	The Wiggles		Codemans: Kids Next Door	Headline News		SportsCenter	The Late Late Show	The Late Late Show
13-00	Bob the Builder	Movie: "Deak Set" (1957) Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, An officer of expert and a TV executive look back.	Headline News	The Late Late Show		Inside the NFL	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
13-30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Headline News		College Basketball North Carolina State at North Carolina. (Taped)	Boston Public "Chapter Forty"	Entertainment Studios.com
14-00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News			Over Alaska	Good Morning America
14-30	Barny & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News			Sinfeld "The Rancano"	Headline News
15-00	Funtastic Home Videos	(2-59) Movie: "A Very Bad Thing" (1997) Dustin Hoffman, Sissy Spacek, Daniel Craig, a high school basketball star faces his estranged father.	Headline News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Oobi	Around the Horn	Blind Date	Oobi
16-00	Pokemon		Headline News	Headline News		Parade the Interruption		Clifford's Puppy Days (E)
16-30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Headline News	Headline News				
17-00	Oobi Show (w/ standard, E)	Charlie Sheen Revealed: Charley Sheen.	Headline News	Headline News				
17-30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News				
18-00	The Family OddParents		Headline News	Headline News				
18-30	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News				
19-00	Al Fieat		Headline News	Headline News				
19-30	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Headline News				
20-00	Danny Phantom		Headline News	Headline News				
20-30	Drawn & Titled "Smart Girl"		Headline News	Headline News				
21-00	That '80s Haven		Headline News	Headline News				
21-30	Phil of the Future		Headline News	Headline News				
22-00	Switched!		Headline News	Headline News				
22-30	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News	Headline News				
23-00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News				
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FACES

New Age guru takes on violence

Author Deepak Chopra says individuals must be responsible for creating peace

BY JUSTIN GLANVILLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's an incongruous image: Deepak Chopra, leader of a spiritual movement that has introduced millions of Americans to the benefits of positive thinking, waving a cell phone in the air as he lists its capacities for destruction.

"I could be sitting anywhere in the world and move a few electrons from here, and I'll interfere with the power grid for the entire state of New York," he says. "Or I'll interfere with air traffic signals so no plane can land at JFK. What is military power going to do then?"

Chopra hasn't snapped. He's explaining what he sees as the ineffectiveness of conventional warfare in an age when terrorists can wreak havoc without a single armed troop.

What's needed instead, he says, is a return to the ancient principle that peace begins within: Just as individuals can now perpetrate mass violence, individuals must also take responsibility for creating world peace.

That's the message of Chopra's new book, "Peace Is the Way," which offers seven daily practices that he says will create inner peace and, by extension, a more placid world.

Is it naive to think enough people will adopt his ideas to make a difference? "We have to try. If you ask anybody on the street, 'Do you want peace of mind in your life and in your relationships?' nobody is going to say no," he says. "Magnify that a few million times — that's what we need."

It's that steadfast optimism that has become Chopra's trademark. He has made a career of purveying hope, earning an estimate

of \$10 million to \$15 million by selling 20 million copies of his 40 books and operating a successful wellness center in California.

His legions of fans include the Dalai Lama, former Nobel laureates Desmond Tutu, Betty Williams and Oscar Arias, and former U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose endorsements fill the first few pages of "Peace Is the Way."

He has also become the unofficial television spokesman of the New Age movement, appearing

**"We reach for war
the way a
chain-smoker
reaches for a
cigarette,
muttering all
the while that we
have to quit."**

Deepak Chopra

on scores of TV talk shows each year, from "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to "The O'Reilly Factor."

It's easy to see why. Wearing a pair of rainbow-framed reading glasses and speaking in a voice that rarely deviates from a sing-song cheerfulness, Chopra comes across as casual and approachable. During a recent interview in a lounge at his midtown Manhattan apartment building, he is dressed in a sweater and slacks and weighs a few pounds more than the average health expert.

True to his image as an unflappable guru, Chopra, who's about 58 but doesn't remember exactly when he was born — says

notoriety doesn't faze him. He says he leads a normal family life with his wife, Rita, and has two grown children and a grand-daughter.

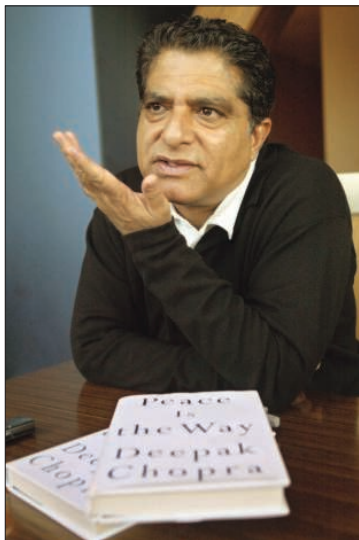
His previous writings have instructed readers how to adopt a positive attitude to combat chronic illnesses such as addiction or insomnia, and in "Peace Is the Way" Chopra treats violence in similar terms.

"Like any habit, war has worn a groove in our minds," he writes in the first chapter. "We reach for war the way a chain-smoker reaches for a cigarette, muttering all the while that we have to quit."

It may surprise some, but Chopra is writing from personal experience. In the mid-1980s, when he was chief of staff of New England Memorial Hospital near Boston, Chopra was on the brink of an emotional breakdown. He drank, smoked and was a self-described caffeine addict. In desperation, he turned to yoga and meditation to relieve his stress, and began to see their positive contrast to the "pull-pushing" he says he did as a conventional doctor.

He also traveled to India, where he had been and earned his medical degree. There, he met Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a meditation teacher and spiritual leader who famously served as guru to The Beatles in the 1960s. The Maharishi introduced Chopra to Ayurvedic medicine, which uses herbal mixtures to stave off illness.

After returning to the United States, Chopra founded an Ayurvedic health center in 1985, the same year he quit his hospital job. He started writing books, with the first, "Creating Health," appearing in 1987. His breakthrough success came with "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind," published in



Best-selling author Deepak Chopra talks about his new book, "Peace Is the Way," during a December interview in New York City. The book takes on the subject of violence, a first for New Age guru. Chopra has sold more than 20 million copies of his 40 books.

1993, in which he argued that people could slow the aging process through meditation, better diet and self-affirmation exercises.

In 1996, he opened The Chopra Center in La Jolla, Calif. A day spa at the center offers massages, aromatherapy and other 35-minute treatments ranging in price from \$95 to \$185; seminars and retreats with titles like "Renewal Weekend" and "Journey Into Healing" are also available.

As Chopra's fame and financial success grew, he began to sever his ties to the Western medical establishment, letting his medical licenses expire in Massachusetts and California.

Recently, he has even made

some amends with the medical community. He teaches a course at Harvard Medical School once a year, and he says courses at The Chopra Center are now certified by the American Medical Association. He is also a licensed medical doctor in California, though he rarely sees individual patients.

"I was criticized, called a fraud — it was a very cantankerous and antagonistic relationship [with the medical mainstream]. So I basically left. Now I get constantly invited to give talks at medical schools, and professional societies are giving me honorary memberships," he says with a laugh, and shrugs.

"I guess we've come full circle."

NBA star against drugs

Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony will assist a campaign against drugs and violence following criticism of his appearance in a DVD that warned witnesses about working with the police.

Maryland state and federal officials approached Anthony, hoping his celebrity would be a draw.

The DVD, titled "Stop Snitching," has circulated in Baltimore since November. Anthony, a Baltimore native, appears briefly, standing next to a man who warns that anyone who tips off police about drug deals will "get a hole



Anthony

in his head." Anthony doesn't respond to any of the comments on tape but appears in the DVD's credits.

Anthony later said he doesn't approve of the DVD's contents and didn't know it was being made.

"I'm completely against violence and drugs — that's not me," Anthony told The Washington Post. "I just want to get the word out. I've lost friends to violence. I would never support anybody harming anyone."

Keanu Reeves gets a star

Keanu Reeves, who traveled through time in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and took on humanity's machine conquerors in "The Matrix" films, has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Reeves, 40, was honored with the star Monday for a career that includes movies

such as the action thrillers "Speed" and "Point Break," the romances "Something's Gotta Give" and "A Walk in the Clouds," and the dramas "Little Buddha" and "My Own Private Idaho."

His star was placed along Hollywood Boulevard near where some action scenes in "Speed" were shot.

The honor came just weeks before the release of his next movie, "Constantine," adapted from the DC Comics series. Reeves stars as the title character, a man with visions of angels and devils on Earth who battles to dispatch demons back to the



Reeves

underworld.

'Medium' coming back

NBC will bring back the midseason drama "Medium" for a second season, the network announced.

The show, which premiered just weeks earlier, has received good ratings. It stars Patricia Arquette as a woman who solves crimes through her dreams and visions.

Besides the full season pickup, "Medium" will add three more episodes to the already planned 13 episodes.



Arquette

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Tomjanovich resigns as coach of Lakers

Health concerns cited as reason

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Rudy Tomjanovich resigned as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday, citing health concerns brought on by the job.

"There are no outside influences, be it pressure from above, anything with my players or being here in Los Angeles," he said.

"This is all about me and how I'm wired. Nobody put pressure on me but me."

Tomjanovich, 56, went 22-19 in his first season as Phil Jackson's successor and with a revamped lineup built around Kobe Bryant. Assistant coach Frank Hamblen led the Lakers to a 2-0 record when Tomjanovich missed their last two games because of a stomach virus and a sinus infection.

Tomjanovich, who led the Houston Rockets to NBA titles in 1994 and 1995, returned to coaching after recovering from bladder cancer.

He said that he began wearing down mentally and physically about a month ago. "I went from this energetic, pumped up guy to being sapped of a lot of energy," Tomjanovich said, adding that he takes antibiotics regularly now. "It just feels like I got deeper into not feeling good. Why this happened now and why my body couldn't take it, I do not have the answer."

Tomjanovich said the Lakers offered him a consulting position for two years.

The 56-year-old Tomjanovich signed a \$30 million, five-year contract last summer to succeed Jackson.



Rudy Tomjanovich, who had signed a five-year, \$30 million contract, led the Lakers to a 22-19 record before resigning on Wednesday.

Kings opt to retain Adelman through '06

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings exercised their one-year option on coach Rick Adelman on Tuesday, keeping him under contract through next season.

Even though Adelman has taken the Kings to the playoffs every year since coming to Sacramento in 1998, owners Joe and Gavin Maloof wanted to see how the team started this season before deciding whether to pick up his option for 2005-06.

A solid start — Sacramento is 30-13 despite several injuries — was enough to earn Adelman another year.

Adelman's assistant coaches also will be retained, the team said.

McMillan to return on Sunday

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Coach Nate McMillan is scheduled to rejoin the Seattle SuperSonics for practice Sunday following

NBA briefs

The memorial service is Friday, but McMillan will miss Seattle's home game Saturday against Charlotte. Jeanette Tyson, 62, died last Sunday.

McMillan is in Raleigh, N.C., dealing with family issues, and fourth-year associate head coach Dwane Casey is running the team in McMillan's absence.

Warriors' Robinson suspended

NEW YORK — Clifford Robinson of the Golden State Warriors was suspended for five games without pay Tuesday for violating the NBA's drug policy.

Robinson's suspension begins with Wednesday night's game against the Sacramento Kings.

A 16-year veteran, Robinson averaged 8.8 points and 2.6 rebounds in 40 games this season.

ing the funeral of his mother this week in North Carolina.

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Illinois' Luther Head, left, drives against Michigan State's Kelvin Torbert in the second half on Tuesday. Head led Illinois with 22 points.

No. 1 Illinois passes Michigan State test

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo knows what it takes to win a national championship.

After watching No. 1 Illinois roll past his 12th-ranked team 81-68 on Tuesday night to remain undefeated, Izzo thinks the Illini could win it all.

"They have the ingredients to win a national championship," said Izzo, who led the Spartans to the title five years ago.

The Illini (22-0, 8-0 Big Ten) want to win it all, but insist they're not thinking about that right now or even about going into the NCAA tournament next month without a loss.

Instead, they are focused on playing well in every game.

"We've got to play at a special level every night, or we're going to lose. We know that," said De Brown, who scored 18 points.

"We know that, but I don't think the pressure is really on us because there are people who say we're going to lose. They can't wait to say, 'I told you so!'"

Illinois' next game is against Indiana on Sunday at home. Its remaining road games are at Michigan, Penn State and Iowa with home dates against Wisconsin, Northwestern and Purdue before the Big Ten tournament.

In each game, the nation will be watching the Illini to see if anybody can beat them, and Illinois coach Bruce Weber said his players are ready for the scrutiny. "They like the limelight. They kind care 'it," Weber said. "Some of it is Dee's personality that rubs off on the rest of them. I don't think Luther [Head] was like that a year ago, but now he likes it, too."

"Our kids have a great competitive spirit. They have a huge will to win."

The only other unbeaten team in Division I, No. 5 Boston College kept pace with a 62-50 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday.

Luther Head scored 22 points to lead Illinois, which handed Michigan State (14-4, 5-2) its 12th straight loss against a ranked opponent, date to the regional finals of the 2005 NCAA tournament.

"It's a killer," said Alan Anderson, who scored 14 points. "This really, really hurts."

Illinois put on a clinic on of-

Men's Top 25 Roundup

fense, with great spacing, useful passing and fabulous shooting.

The open man takes the open shot," Head said. "That's what we live by."

The Illini made 13 of 24 three-pointers and during a 12-minute span in the second half, they made 12 shots in a row.

On the other end of the court, the Illini wouldn't let Michigan State get much done because they seemed to have their bodies, arms or hands in every passing lane. The Spartans had 13 turnovers, five were unforgotten.

"We disrupted some of their stuff," Weber said.

Michigan State's Paul Davis and Shannon Brown each scored 12 points while Maurice Ager and reserve Kelvin Torbert both had 10.

Illinois led by 17 midway through the second half and was ahead 73-58 with 6:37 to go before the Spartans rallied to avoid a rout.

They pulled within seven twice, but the second time, Brown ended their comeback hopes with a three-point play on a driving layup that left him crumpled up against the basket support with 1:56 left.

No. 5 Boston College 62, West Virginia 50: Craig Smith scored 23 points and the host Eagles (19-0, 8-0 Big East) matched the longest winning streak in school history, set in 1968-69.

West Virginia got within 42-38 with 8:27 remaining, but the Eagles went on a 12-3 run that made it 54-41 with 3:10 to go. Jared Dudley, who scored 15 points, and Jeremiah Watson, who had 13, each had four points in the run.

If the Eagles win Saturday night at Seton Hall, they'll become the first Big East team to start a season 20-0.

Clemson 88, No. 22 Maryland 73: At Clemson, S.C., Sharrod Ford tied his career high with 25 points, and the Tigers (11-10, 2-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) snapped a 13-game losing streak against Maryland.

John Gilchrist had 18 points for the Tigers, Terrapins (13-6, 4-4) who missed their final 13 shots of the half and fell behind 45-29.

90-footer creates a buzz

BY HANK KURZ JR.

The Associated Press

It was a baseball throw by a former quarterback on a basketball court, and now Guilford College's Jordan Snipes has a career highlight he doesn't expect to top.

The 6-foot-4 sophomore rebounded a missed free throw with 0.6 seconds on the clock Monday night, wheeled around and threw a shot that swished through the buzzer sounded, giving the Quakers a 91-89 overtime victory against Randolph-Macon.

"I think that'll be my highlight," a weary Snipes said Tuesday afternoon, when he'd only slept for about 90 minutes since the miracle shot. "I thought if I went to sleep that it was just going to turn into a dream and when I woke up it'd be over."

Snipes was hoping to grab the rebound and lean quickly against a Yellow Jackets player hoping to draw a "cheap foul," he said. But then he heard the Randolph-Macon coach yell, "tell their guys to back away from the line when I woke up it'd be over."

"When they did that, I couldn't get near anybody in six tenths of a second, so I just took the ball and threw it," he said. "I didn't know what else to do."

The shot capped a career-best 34-point night for Snipes, who made six of seven three-point tries. And if that wasn't enough, he also earned the national recognition that college athletes crave: recognition on SportsCenter's Top Ten plays of the day.

In fact, his play made it five times.

Several players were on cell phones on the bus back to North Carolina, where the top 10 was about to air. Snipes said his brother told him the play was No. 9.

"We were like, 'That's pretty cool. No. 9. At least we're on there,'" he said. "And then they said, 'You're No. 7! You're No. 5! And 3 and 1!'" It was incredible.

Awesome.

Guilford coach Tom Palombo has coached for 15 years and said he's never seen anything like the "lucky free play" that unfolded at Guilford on Monday.

In fact, Palombo already was walking toward Randolph-Macon coach Mike Rhoades to shake hands when the flight of the ball caught their attention.

"I remember thinking it looked like it had a chance, and when it went through, it was just crazy," he said. "When the referee came and said it was good, I kind of jumped up and down when I was right next to Rhoades," he said. "I told him I was sorry."

"It was hard to control your emotions on a play like that."

Rhoades told Adam Kovic to miss the second free throw on purpose, following the conventional wisdom that six-tenths of a second is the time of the shot.

"When it got to halfcourt, I said, 'That's going to do something,'" he said, adding almost apologetically that the shot clock would have expired before the shot.

"The guy just made an incredible play," Rhoades said.

Neheise's 49ers interview called to question in court

Huskies' former athletic director testifies in former football coach's unfair dismissal suit

By TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Former Washington athletic director Barbara Hedges, testifying Tuesday in the trial of former football coach Rick Neuheisel's unfair dismissal lawsuit, angrily defended her 2003 advice to Neuheisel about a possible job with the San Francisco 49ers.

Hedges insisted she told her then-coach "to think about it" during a family vacation and then tell her if he planned to pursue the NFL opening.

Neuheisel's lawyer, Bob Sulkin, asked Hedges if she had advised Neuheisel, "do work things out." Such words, he suggested, would indicate Hedges knew the coach was going to interview with the NFL team in February 2003.

"I did not," Hedges testified, her voice rising. "I told Rick Neuheisel to think about it."

Neuheisel has sued the university and NCAA, contending he was unfairly fired as Washington's coach and that the NCAA pressured the school to dismiss him. Testimony in his King County Superior Court trial began Monday.

The 49ers issue is key because university administrators contend Neuheisel lied about his interest in the job and didn't tell Hedges before traveling to San Francisco for a job interview. After that, Hedges said Neuheisel was warned privately that additional lies wouldn't be tolerated.

When he was fired four months later, in June 2003, Hedges said Neuheisel wasn't forthcoming about the questions by NCAA investigators who were looking into his high-stakes gambling on NCAA basketball.

University lawyer Lou Peterson earlier testified the coach's contract allowed him to be fired for dishonest acts.

Sulkin showed jurors a paragraph in Neuheisel's contract, stating he was required to inform supervisors before interviewing for jobs with "other schools."

"He wasn't obligated under the contract with regard to professional terms," Hedges testified. "But as an employee of the University of Washington, I believe he was obligated to notify us for any other jobs."

Hedges admitted the contract language was changed when Keith Gilbertson succeeded Neuheisel as coach. In his contract, Gilbertson was required to notify Hedges before interviewing for "other coaching positions."

"It was corrected in his contract," Hedges said.

"You got it right?" Sulkin asked.

"We got it right," she answered. Sulkin asked Hedges about a quote attributed to her in a Seattle newspaper — that she had asked Neuheisel "to work things out" regarding the 49ers job during a vacation in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Hedges said she was misquoted. She testified that Neuheisel said only that he had been approached about the job by a third party.

"As far as I knew, Rick Neuheisel had not been contacted by the 49ers and had shown very little interest in the job," Hedges said, adding that she knew Neuheisel was going to Idaho on vacation.

"I told Rick, 'Go to Sun Valley and think about it, and we'll talk about it on Monday,'" Hedges testified.

While he was away, Neuheisel interviewed in San Francisco.

After returning to Seattle, Neuheisel insisted he wasn't a candidate and even insisted on a verbal release denying interest. Later that week, he admitted he had lied, saying he had to honor a confidentiality agreement with the NFL team. Sulkin also questioned Hedges about an e-mail issued by Washington's former compliance director, Dana Richardson, that mistakenly authorized gambling by athletes.

NCAA rules prohibit employing by athletes, coaches and athletic department staffers and member schools.

Hedges admitted she did read the

Attorney John Aslin (above), representing the NCAA, addresses the jury during his opening statement on Monday.

Former football coach Rick Neuheisel claims that NCAA administrators set him up and that University of Washington officials fired him wrongly.

e-mail when it first was distributed on March 13, 2003. The memo, a cornerstone of Neuheisel's lawsuit, went to the entire Washington athletic staff.

Hedges testified she deleted it after glancing at the headline, "Reminder about NCAA rules on gambling."

Jurors were shown the text, which reads: "The bottom line is if you have friends outside ICA (intercollegiate athletics) ... you can participate. You cannot place a bet with a bookie or organize your own pool."

Asked by Sulkin why she deleted the e-mail, Hedges replied: "I knew very clearly the rules. You cannot in any way place bets on college athletics. I looked at it. I deleted it."

The memo resurfaced on June 5, 2003, one day after Neuheisel was questioned by NCAA investigators. Hedges said her secretary handed her a copy of the e-mail, and she testified it was the first time she read the full text.

Hedges said she immediately called Washington's then-faculty athletic representative, Bob Aronson, who advised that the memo was issued concerning small-scale bets.

After that discussion, Hedges said she didn't believe the memo applied to Neuheisel's gambling. He won \$18,523 in 2002 and 2003 in an auction-style pool with neighbors.

He testified as Anthony's mother told The Tennessean on Monday that it was "a total lie" to suggest that her daughter mixed pills with alcohol and tried to cut herself.

"The only official word from the team in the three days since the bizarre episode, the Rhythm owners issued a statement Tuesday apologizing to McElhinney."

"The ownership of the Nashville Rhythm would like to apologize to Ashley McElhinney, our fans, Lipscomb University, the city of Nashville, and our supporters for the incident," the statement said.

The Rhythm would like to apologize to the incident and hoped to have a decision "on a course of action as soon as possible."

McElhinney, who has led the Rhythm to an 18-7 record, declined to comment.

Langer will not return as Europe's 2006 Ryder Cup captain

LONDON — Bernhard Langer will not return as European captain for the 2006 Ryder Cup, opening the way for Ian Woosnam or Nick Faldo to take over.

Langer, the two-time Masters champion who led Europe to a 18½-9½ victory over the United States last year at Oakland Hills, announced his decision in a statement Wednesday.

"I wish to end all speculation that I will

Owners' revised salary cap offer rejected by union

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL's latest proposal to end the season-long lockout was rejected Wednesday by the players' union, which then came back with its own idea. Bring the commissioner to the bargaining table.

In turning down the league's offer, the union reiterated it won't accept a salary cap as a solution.

"The league presented a written proposal with minor variations of concepts that were presented orally by the NHL last Thursday," NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin said. "We told the league last week and again today that their multilayered salary cap proposals were not the basis for an agreement."

Commissioner Gary Bettman and union head Bob Goodenow again were absent from the negotiations. The four-hour session in Newark, N.J., marked the fifth time in two weeks the sides have talked.

The union suggested the sides meet on Thursday with Goodenow and Bettman in attendance.

The NHL proposed a six-year deal that contained a cap that would force teams to spend at least \$32 million on player costs but no more than \$42 million — including benefits. Both figures would be adjusted each year to reflect changes in league revenues.

Bettman has promised the 30 NHL teams that he will get them cost certainty, a direct link between league revenues and players costs. The NHL's offer Wednesday would have given the players between 53 and 55 percent of league revenues.

Chellos, Hatcher, Draper sign to play in UHL.

FRASER, Mich. — Red Wings defenseman Chris Chellos and Derian Hatcher and forward Kris Draper signed with the Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League on Tuesday for the remainder of the season.

The addition of three NHL players should boost the Mechanics (11-29-6), who are averaging just 1,500 per game in a building that holds 3,200.

Chellos, Hatcher and Draper will play in Motor City's home games and might join the expansion team when it travels to Flint and Port Huron.

Players in the UHL — a league that is three rungs below the NHL — can't earn more than \$1,000 per week.

Hatcher, 32, was limited to 15 regular-season games and 12 playoff contests last season because of a knee injury and didn't want to miss another season. "I just couldn't sit out for two years and try to come back," he said.

serve a second term as captain," Langer said. "I have officially informed the European Tour tournament committee ... that I have every intention of being a playing member of the 2006 European Team."

Sharapova wins in Tokyo

TOKYO — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova overcame a slow start Wednesday to defeat Maria Vento-Kabchi of Japan 6-7 (3), 6-0 in the second round of the Pan Pacific Open.

U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov defeated qualifier Maria-Gayumay Mikaelian of Switzerland 6-3, 6-0.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport will play her opener Thursday against Japan's Shiori Obata.

Prosecutors expand probe in Germany's soccer scandal

FRANKFURT, Germany — Four referees and 14 players are among 25 people suspected in a scandal that has shaken Germany's widening soccer scandal, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Police raided the homes of 19 people across the country Wednesday and seized bank accounts and cash. Prosecutors said \$3.17 million, the Berlin prosecutors' office said in a statement. There were no arrests.

Part owner of ABA team hospitalized after in-game firing

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Hours after storming the court and firing her coach, Nashville Rhythm part-owner Sally Anthony was rushed to a hospital following a 911 call by a relative who said she had tried to "hurt herself."

A relative called 911 about 6 a.m. EST Sunday to report that Anthony was hurting herself, according to a 911 tape obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"My sister-in-law is in her apartment right now, and she has taken some pills and mixed it with alcohol and taken scissors and cut up her arms," said the caller, who identified herself as Susan.

Hours earlier, Anthony marched onto the court in the third quarter of the Rhythm's 110-109 victory over Kansas City, demanding that coach John McElhinney bench a player and then told the coach she was fired. Security guards had to escort Anthony off the court.

Anthony is one of three owners of Nashville's American Basketball Association franchise, which made McElhinney the first female coach of a men's professional team last May.

Anthony, an aspiring pop singer, and her husband and Rhythm co-owner Tony Barch, did not immediately respond to e-mail and fax messages seeking comment Tuesday.

The 911 caller told a dispatcher that Anthony had taken an anti-depressant Xanax, and was also told every few seconds. The caller also told the dispatcher that her sister-in-law could become violent.

The dispatcher asked the caller if she thought it was a suicide attempt.

The caller said, "I don't know if she really meant to hurt herself. She definitely meant to hurt herself."

The 30-year-old Anthony was taken by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she was treated for cuts on her arm and released Sunday. She was quoted in different reports as saying she felt and also that she was bitten by a dog.

The woman who called 911 did not immediately return a telephone message from the AP on Tuesday. A woman who identi-

fied herself as Anthony's mother told The Tennessean on Monday that it was "a total lie" to suggest that her daughter mixed pills with alcohol and tried to cut herself.

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Sports
briefs

Sally Anthony



Sally Anthony

Sosa set anew with Orioles

BY DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Sammy Sosa could end a Baltimore Orioles' search for the first time as soon as Wednesday, after he completes his physical and his trade from the Chicago Cubs is approved by baseball Commissioner Bud Selig. The Orioles on Tuesday set up a time for the slugger's physical and were making tentative plans for a news conference on Wednesday, even though the commissioner's office was awaiting final paperwork before forwarding the trade to Selig.

Sosa arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport on Tuesday night. "It's good to be here. I'm so happy to be in Baltimore," a smiling Sosa said.

Chicago would receive Jerry Hairston Jr. and two minor leaguers for Sosa, whose up-and-down ride with the Cubs is nearing a conclusion. The Cubs would pay \$12 million of Sosa's \$17 million salary this year.

The swap cannot be completed without Selig's blessing, because more than \$1 million will change hands, but no problems are anticipated. Sosa has been appraised of the negotiations, and the remain-

ing paperwork is expected to be submitted Wednesday.

Still missing is Sosa's waiver of his no-trade rights as a 10-year veteran with at least five years on the same team, and a formal agreement to the restructuring of his contract by the league and union.

Sosa's contract with Chicago contains a provision that calls for the team's \$18 million option for 2006 to become guaranteed if he is traded and for a \$19 million team option for 2007 to be added, one that would carry a \$4.5 million buyout. As part of the trade, Sosa will sign an addendum to his contract voiding that provision.

In addition, Chicago is responsible for a \$3.5 million severance payment that must be made within 30 days of the deal. Baltimore becomes responsible for the 2006 option, which carries a \$4.5 million buyout.

The deal also is contingent upon Sosa passing the physical, which will be administered Wednesday by the Orioles team physician, Dr. Charles Silberstein.

Finalization of the trade can't happen soon enough for the Cubs, who are ready to sign free-agent outfielder Jeremy Burnitz to a one-year contract with a mutual option for 2006. That deal wouldn't be finalized until the Sosa trade is completed.

The Cubs initiated the swap with the Orioles in an effort to unload the 36-year-old Sosa, who was once a hero in Chicago. But his popularity and numbers dwindled the past two years, and the Cubs found him to be expendable after a season in which he hit .253 and struck out 133 times.

"I'm looking for him to have a monster year," said Jay Gibbons, whom Sosa will replace in right field. "We needed a right-handed power hitter, and here's a guy who hit .35 despite missing time with a bad back. I'd say that makes the middle of the lineup pretty dangerous."

The addition of Sosa means Gibbons will move from right field back to first base, where he played as a minor leaguer.

"That's OK with me," Gibbons said. "If it helps us win, then this works to our benefit. This is my fifth year here, and it's time to start winning."

Sosa will certainly add punch to the lineup, but he will be a positive addition to the clubhouse: He was suspended for coking his bat in 2003, and last season he left early in the Cubs' final game and criticized manager Dusty Baker for dropping him to sixth in the batting order.

"Yeah, some things happened last year, but I'm sure there was a lot of stuff behind the scenes that we don't know about," Orioles outfielder Larry Bigbie said. "I think he'll fit right in. Took away the last two years and give him a fresh start, and I bet everything will be fine."

AP Sports Writers Nancy Armour in Chicago and David Blum in New York contributed to this report.

NCAA reforms look to take gitz out of recruiting trips

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As one of the top high school football players in the country, Dajaeon Farr took recruiting trips to LSU, Miami, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

He toured the campuses, checked out the facilities, met some of the players and coaches and got a 48-hour feel for life as a student-athlete at a football powerhouse.

But he didn't get to see his name in lights. As of last year, that's against the rules.

"I remember watching that in 'The Program,' and I was like, 'I can't wait until it's my turn to take my trip and I'll see my name on the scoreboard and get to run out on the field,'" said Farr, a tight end from Houston's North Shore High School.

High-profile scandals involving football recruits at Colorado and Miami prompted the NCAA to take what it called emergency action last summer.

No longer are schools allowed to lure prospects with rock star treatment. Fancy hotels, ritzy restaurants and private planes are now off limits. So are personalized jerseys and the use of simulated game-day activities, like the ones Farr saw in the movie "The Program," a 1993 film about a fictitious scandal-ridden college football team.

The NCAA also now requires schools to file a written recruiting policy with their conference or the NCAA.

NCAA vice president David Berra, who chaired the panel that came up with the reforms, said the goal is to change the philosophy of recruiting and stamp out the "culture of entitlement," as NCAA President Myles Brand referred to it.

"I think it remains to be seen if it has any long-term benefit of reducing the celebrity of the recruiting weekends," Berra said.

"You shouldn't win the recruiting war by a lobster tail. You should win by an academic

major, as foreign as that concept may be to some."

National signing day was Wednesday.

American Football Coaches Association executive director Grant Teaff said most of the reforms have been well received by coaches.

"I haven't heard one word of complaint," he said. "I haven't heard one word of complaint."

He said many schools don't have the type of perks available to them — five-star hotels and restaurants, for example — that the NCAA outlawed using. But some do, and opposing coaches were happy to see the playing field leveled.

"You shouldn't win the recruiting war by a lobster tail. You should win by an academic major, as foreign as that concept may be to some."

David Berra
NCAA vice president

"I can't imagine offering our recruits five-star hotels or restaurants," new LSU coach Les Miles said.

"I'm staying where they have a hot tub in the room is important to them, this isn't the place for them."

New Mississippi coach Ed Orgeron was recruiting coordinator and defensive line coach for Southern California. He said the new restrictions did little to change how USC ran recruiting visits and he doesn't anticipate them being a problem at Ole Miss.

"I really feel there's more focus on the weekend on things that really matter, such as academics and athletics," he said.

Rutgers coach Greg Schiano was disappointed that he had to stop taking recruit Scarlet Walk, following the path the Scarlet Knights take on game day into their new stadium, where the prospects' names would be displayed on the scoreboard. "I think that's big, a kid getting a feel for being a part of the program for 48 hours," said Schiano, entering his fifth year with Rutgers.

Teaff said the reform that prompted the most protest from coaches was prohibiting college from using chartered or private planes to transport recruits. About 35 Division I-A schools don't have a commercial airport nearby, Teaff said. It saves time for those schools to use their buses, but as Teaff pointed out, "There's no private planes to get you there when you become a student."

"Coaches can use reality to an honest benefit," he said.

The NCAA's new rules were a response to two highly publicized embarrassments to college football.

Colorado was accused of using sex and alcohol to entice recruits. The scandal was set off by lawsuit filed by a woman who said she was raped by CU players or recruits in 2001.

At Miami, the Hurricanes offered a scholarship to a player who was already on probation when he was charged with hugging a woman without her permission and setting off hotel fire extinguishers while on a recruiting trip to the University of Florida. Miami eventually let star high school linebacker Willie Williams enroll.

Farr has given a verbal commitment to Miami and was expected to make it official Wednesday. As for missing out on his Hollywood moment as a recruit, he wasn't all that disappointed.

"It wasn't a big deal," he said. "I'll get that eventually."

Hall of Famer Berra sues over 'Sex' ad

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hall of Famer Yogi Berra has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against TBS, claiming the cable television network sullied his name by using it in a macy advertisement for its "Sex and the City" reruns.

Berra's papers, filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, say Inc. ad which has appeared on buses and in subway cars, caused "severe damage to his reputation" with its reference to Kim Cattrall's sexually promiscuous character Samantha.

The offending ad, Berra's court papers say, queried readers about the definition of "yogasm."

Possible definitions: (a) a type of yo-yo trick, (b) sex with Yogi Berra and (c) what Samantha has in mind with yoga class. The answer is (c).

The reference to the sexual act made in connection with Berra "engenders a moral taint that has damaged his otherwise spotless reputation," say his court papers, filed last week and posted on the smokinng.com Web site.

The 79-year-old Berra "is a married man and has children and grandchildren," his court papers say. "He is a deeply religious man who has maintained and continues to maintain a moral lifestyle and has a spotless reputation for integrity, decency and moral character."

Berra's lawyer Lewis Smoley, said he was told TBS stopped running the ad last August. Nonetheless, he said, he wants the court to order the superstation to never run the ad again.

The Berra suit seeks \$5 million on each of two causes of action: commercial use of his name without permission and unjust enrichment by use of his name without permission.

A spokeswoman for TBS, based in Atlanta, said Tuesday: "We do not comment on litigation."

Berra, who played for the New York Yankees from 1946-63 who lives in Montclair, N.J., is one of baseball's most beloved and quotable players. He managed the Yankees and the New York Mets to pennants.

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HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Lady Bison rebuild
Green, Mannheim girls have come a long way in two years

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

THE MANNHEIM, Germany two years ago, Nyeschia Green was a Mannheim middle schooler who couldn't wait to play for the Lady Bison varsity, a team that went into that season's Division II tournament with a 2-10 record.

Green and the Lady Bison both have come a long way.

This season, Mannheim is 7-2 overall and 3-0 in league play. Green, a 15-year-old sophomore, is averaging 15.9 points, four rebounds, four steals and two assists per game.

But she couldn't tell you that. "I don't keep up with statistics," said Green, who has scored 21 points in two of her last three outings and earned a season-high 28 against Patch in December. "All that matters is the 'W.'"

Those wins are due partly to players such as Green and teammates Amanda Knox and Kelsey Chavarria, who have breathed life into head coach Adrian Crawford's system.

"We have a long way to go," Crawford said Monday, "but the system is in place."

Like all of the Lady Bison, Green has bought wholeheartedly into Crawford's system.

"We go out there and play good team basketball," Green said prior to a lively Monday practice session which saw the Lady Bison honing their zone defense and transition game. "When we do that, everything else takes care of itself."

Taking care of everything else is the essence of the system, according to Crawford.

"We work really hard," he said. "We teach fundamentals and pay attention to details."

As an example, one of those details has been — who has found the three-point shot just out of her range — elevating her already potent scoring.

"She's taking advantage of her mid-range jumper," said Mannheim assistant David Brown. "Coach Crawford took her aside and pointed out that she was shooting over 50 percent inside the arc. He told her to step inside before she shot."

The detail paid off in Mannheim's 43-21 victory on Friday against Black Forest Academy.

"She was 10-of-14 from the floor against BFA," Brown said, "and scored 21 points — even with no threes."

Crawford pointed out that Knox, a senior leader who endured that 2-10 season with him, has also helped Green's scoring average.



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Mannheim sophomore guard Nyeschia Green is averaging 15.9 points a game for the Lady Bison, who are 7-2 overall and 3-0 in league play this season. Mannheim was 2-10 two seasons ago.

"She takes the point guard," Crawford said.

"That lets Nyeschia score."

It also emphasizes the team concept the Lady Bison swear by.

"We have girls who have bonded together," said Chavarria, Mannheim's inside presence. "We all support each other. We don't have just one star."

Crawford said Green's scoring is also helped by her defensive prowess, particularly her skill at stealing the ball.

"The steals help get her into her rhythm," Crawford said. "She's not really that fast, but she has fantastic anticipation for

knowing where the ball's going to go. It comes from playing center field in softball, getting a jump on the ball."

Crawford's system takes into account another detail that's not always associated with building a winner — seeing that his players have fun — even when they were 2-10.

"When I was in eighth grade, [Crawford's first Lady Bison squad] invited me to practice a couple of times," recalled Green. "Even though they weren't winning, they still had fun. That's why I wanted to play so badly — because they were having so much fun."

Crawford intends to see the team keep having fun, all the way through the European tournaments, which will be held at Mannheim from Feb. 22-26.

"We have a great group," he said. "They have fun, and that makes it easier on us."

Easy enough to go from near-worst to first in just three seasons? "We take it one practice at a time," Green said when asked about Mannheim's chances in the European tournament three weeks from now, "one game at a time."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrupes.osd.mil

This week's schedule

Basketball
(Boys and girls at same site unless otherwise indicated)
Friday

Division I — Kaiserslautern at International School of Brussels; Ramstein at Lahnknecht; Würzburg at Neckarsulm.

Division II — Mannheim at AFNORTH; Bitburg at Black Forest Academy; Hanau at Vilsack.

Division III — Rota at Alcobac; Baumholder at Brussels; Merzwill Hill at Iceland; Hohenfels at Ansbach; Bamberg at Gieseler.

Italy — Aviano at Sigonella; Vicenza at Naples; Milan at Marymount; American Overseas School of Rome at Livorno.

Interdivisional — Würzburg at Hohenfels; Ansbach at Patch.

Tuesday

Division I — Wiesbaden boys at Kaiserslautern; Kaiserslautern girls at Wiesbaden.

Wednesday

Division I — Kaiserslautern at International School of Brussels; Ramstein at Lahnknecht.

Division II — Mannheim at SHAPE; Bitburg at Black Forest Academy; Hanau at Vilsack.

Division III — London Central vs. Rota at Alcobac; Baumholder at Brussels; Merzwill Hill at Iceland; Bamberg at Gieseler.

Italy — Aviano at Sigonella; Vicenza at Naples; Milan at Marymount; American Overseas School of Rome at Livorno.

Interdivisional — Würzburg at Hohenfels; Ansbach at Patch.

Thursday

Division I — Wiesbaden boys at Kaiserslautern; Kaiserslautern girls at Wiesbaden.

Friday

Division I — Kaiserslautern at International School of London; Bitburg, Gieseler, Merzwill Hill.

Division II — Mannheim at AFNORTH, Brussels, Lahnknecht, Patch.

Division III — Ansbach, Hanau, Heidelberg, Wiesbaden.

Italy — Aviano at Sigonella; Vicenza at Naples; Milan at Marymount; American Overseas School of Rome at Livorno.

Interdivisional — Würzburg at Hohenfels; Ansbach at Patch.

Saturday

Division I — Wiesbaden boys at Kaiserslautern; Kaiserslautern girls at Wiesbaden.

Division II — Mannheim at AFNORTH, Brussels, Lahnknecht, Patch.

Division III — Ansbach, Hanau, Heidelberg, Wiesbaden.

Italy — Aviano at Sigonella; Vicenza at Naples; Milan at Marymount; American Overseas School of Rome at Livorno.

Interdivisional — Würzburg at Hohenfels; Ansbach at Patch.

Sunday

Division I — Wiesbaden boys at Kaiserslautern; Kaiserslautern girls at Wiesbaden.

Division II — Mannheim at AFNORTH, Brussels, Lahnknecht, Patch.

Division III — Ansbach, Hanau, Heidelberg, Wiesbaden.

Italy — Aviano at Sigonella; Vicenza at Naples; Milan at Marymount; American Overseas School of Rome at Livorno.

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Tuesday

Division I — Wiesbaden boys at Kaiserslautern; Kaiserslautern girls at Wiesbaden.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Xavier Ferguson

Boys basketball

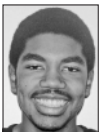
Alcobacury

Ferguson, a shooting guard, lived up to his job description — and then some — scoring 21 points in Friday night's 77-51 victory over the visiting Merwath Hill Mustangs, and a season-high 50 in Saturday's 61-58 triumph over Merwath Hill. The victories kept Alcobacury alive in the III-North area with a 2-2 league mark.

Ferguson, a sophomore, scores on whatever his opponents give him, according to Alcobacury coach Ron Berry. "He can cut to the basket or shoot outside," Berry said. "He's very quick. He has a very strong first step and a great jump-stop when he goes up for the shot."

Ferguson, who has hit for double figures in seven of nine games, doesn't just score. "Defensively, we rely on him to get the steal and start the break," Berry said. "Saturday, he got down the floor so fast he was sprinting past our own players to get to the basket."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.



LaPorchea Sanders

Girls basketball

Vilsack

Last week: Sanders, a junior shooting guard, burned AFNORTH 26 points and Bitburg for 27 in 59-29 and 34-13 victories Friday and Saturday at Bitburg. The victories set up a showdown this weekend in Vilsack against defending Division II regular-season champion Hanau (6-1 overall and 4-0 in league play). Vilsack (7-1, 3-1) bounced top-seeded Hanau from last year's European Division II tournament with a double-overtime victory in the semifinals.

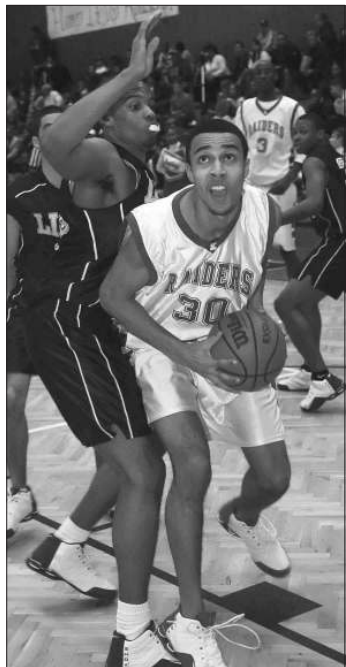
Sanders' scoring contribution in Vilsack's victory on Saturday over four-time defending European Division II champion Bitburg was particularly vital, according to Vilsack coach John Mitchell. "Usually, we get 20-25 points from our other girls. In this game, she took over our offense when we were down," he said.

Sanders can do more than shoot the ball, Mitchell said of his 6-foot-6 team captain. "She has a lot of court awareness. She sees her teammates on the court — he said."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.



Lions top Raiders in K-town



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Jamal Anene, right, tries to get around Heidelberg's Damon Fleming on Tuesday in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Heidelberg overcame an 18-point second-half deficit to beat Kaiserslautern 54-53, with Fleming converting a three-point play in the final seconds. The nonconference loss was K-town's first defeat of the season. The teams will meet again on Feb. 11 in a conference matchup.

Reports claim Smith retiring on Thursday

Career rushing leader elusive about plans

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader and a three-time Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys, was expected to announce his retirement Thursday, according to media reports.

Smith, a free agent who played the last two seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, will make the announcement three days before the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., according to the reports Tuesday.

The 35-year-old running back, who holds the NFL records for most rushing yards and most rushing touchdowns, was as elusive about his plans as he was on the field.

"Did you see my year last year? Do you think I'm ready to retire?" he told The Dallas Morning News for a story posted Tuesday on its Web site.

ESPN.com and the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram also reported Tuesday that Smith would retire. ESPN.com cited "confidants" of the star running back that it did not identify, but newspapers cited unidentified sources.

An eight-time Pro Bowler and the league's most valuable player in 1993, Smith holds the career rushing touchdown record with 115. He has 18,355 yards and 164 TDs overall.

Smith played 13 years in Dallas. He said Monday that he wanted to retire as a member of the Cowboys.

Reliable and durable despite carrying a heavy load year after year, Smith broke Walter Payton's rushing record with the Cowboys in 2002 but signed with Arizona the next season as an unrestricted free agent. His first year with the Cardinals in 2003 proved frustrating. For the first time in



Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader has rushed for 18,355 yards in 15 seasons, including 937 last season with the Arizona Cardinals.

his career, an injury sidelined him for a significant period and he struggled to gain yards when healthy enough to play.

But he bounced back this season, rushing for 937 yards and nine touchdowns for the Cardinals, who — despite their 6-10 record — showed signs of improvement under a new head coach Dennis Green.

Neither the Cardinals nor Cowboys had any announcements planned regarding Smith.

Teammate thinks Favre will retire

BY TOM SILVERSTEIN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Perhaps the biggest stir made on Super Bowl XXXIX media day came a mile away from where the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots gathered for interviews.

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Donald Driver told interviewers during a trip through radio row at the Super Bowl media center that he thinks quarterback Brett Favre is going to retire. Driver, in town for a charity event benefiting area schools, created quite a buzz with his comments.

Almost as quickly as the words were out of Driver's mouth, word spread that Favre was going to retire. One radio station had heard the Packers were calling a news conference to announce Favre's retirement and was investigating its legitimacy.

When asked about Favre's possible retirement, Driver told Sirius NFL radio, "Everyone has been asking me that question. He's a real close friend of mine, and we've been talking back and forth, and I think he's pretty much going to hang 'em up."

Asked if he thought Favre had made up his mind, Driver said, "I think so. I think he was trying to wait until the draft, and I think

coach (Mike) Sherman wanted to know right before free agency because there're a couple of quarterback free agents that they want to look at. Brett decided not to come back. I think they forced him to make a decision. When you force one of the greatest quarterbacks in the NFL to make a decision, he's pretty much going to let you know that he may be just hanging 'em up."

Shortly after Sirius e-mailed Driver's comments to reporters around the country, the Packers issued a statement saying nothing had changed regarding Favre's status. They said he has not informed the Packers of his decision whether to return for the 2005 season.

Painful: More than one doctor thinks Eagles' Owens should sit

PAINFUL, FROM BACK PAGE

Part of the testimony in the trial dealt with the fact that Novak, worried about his future with the team, felt pressure to play. The defendants said Novak didn't treat the injury the way he should have.

While Owens doesn't seem to be encountering any pressure from the Eagles to take the field, he talks as though he will be the only survivor of his fate Sunday.

"God brought me here for a reason. He put me here to show who he is and how powerful he is," he said.

But there's a big difference between prayer and hard science, and Owens' own personal physician, Mark Myerson, isn't the only doctor who thinks the receiver should sit this one out.

"I think the guy's out of his

mind," said Ken Wong, a family physician in Bakersfield, Calif. "That's a serious injury and what he doesn't realize is that if he doesn't allow the healing process to take place, there could be a lot more trouble."

Willis Reed, Jack Youngblood, Curt Schilling. Those men are the authors of heroic comeback stories everyone has heard.

Novak, Terrell Davis, Curt Marsh. They are the subjects of cautionary tales about guys who rushed back and paid a big price.

Davis tried to return quickly from knee injury and regretted it, saying it hastened the end of his career.

Marsh, a lineman for the Oakland Raiders, pushed through with a broken ankle in the 1980s. He won a Super Bowl ring — "a nice bauble," he called it in an interview with Newsday.

He would trade it, though, he said, if he could have his foot back. Unable to stand the pain after 12 unsuccessful surgeries, surgery No. 13 was the one where doctors amputated the foot.

If Owens plays Sunday, there's a good chance things will turn out fine. There's a chance of a gruesome injury. There's also a chance that he could do damage that nobody will know about for a year, or three, or 10.

"You've got short-term risks, like one of the screws bending, and you've got long-term risks, the kind of things you won't know about until much later," said Freddie Pfa, a surgeon at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "If you want it to heal perfectly, logically you need more time. But if you feel like this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, then, maybe you take the chance."

There are financial issues to take into account, although they're not as extreme as one might think.

The NFL guarantees money in the only contract from the signing bonus, and Owens earned \$10 million when he signed his seven-year deal with the Eagles in the offseason. He's scheduled to make \$12 million in base salary over the next six years. That contract, however, would likely be reworked after 2006, at which point Owens will be an 11-year veteran. An 11-year player means he would realistically be leaving about \$4 million on the table if Sunday is his last game. That's less than 20 percent of what he has earned up to now.

Regardless of whether it's a lot or a little money, any doctor who clears him to play would be putting himself at risk of a lawsuit if

Owens is injured further. Ask the guy Novak used. He's in private practice now, having not quite turned his contract with the Jaguars into the cash cow many doctors who associate themselves with NFL teams hope for.

"I love football, but I'd never be a doctor for a football team," Wong said. "Coaches want them to play. Owners want them to play. I just wouldn't want to get involved in the medical-legal aspects of that."

To hear him tell it, this isn't about the money for Owens. All he really wants out of this week is a Super Bowl ring — "that nice bauble" every professional player covets but only few get.

"This is what you go for training camp for. This is why you go through all the blood, sweat and tears. This game is the pinnacle."

It doesn't get any better than this," Owens said.

Painful: More than one doctor thinks Eagles' Owens should sit

PAINFUL, FROM BACK PAIN

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"God brought me here for a reason. He put me here to show who he is and how powerful he is," he said.

Crennel not saying much about possible new employer

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Just about everyone at the Super Bowl acknowledges that Romeo Crennel will be the Cleveland Browns' next head coach. Everyone except Crennel.

The New England defensive coordinator spoke about the Browns job at media day Tuesday, never admitting he's headed to Cleveland after Sunday's game with the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I don't have the job; I am employed with the New England Patriots," he said. "The rules in the NFL say that is tampering; no one can talk to me as long as I work for the Patriots. And I work for the Patriots."

"After this game, if Cleveland decides to offer me a job, then I'll talk about that job."

The Browns reportedly are ready to do that. They were allowed to interview him in early January when the Patriots had a bye before their first playoff game.

Crennel, 57, spent one year with the Browns as Chris Palmer's defensive coordinator in 2000, when the defense had 42 sacks, improving by 17 over 1999. Then he was interviewed for the head coaching job after Palmer was fired. But Crennel believes that was a courtesy because Cleveland already had decided to hire Butch Davis.

Davis quit with five games remaining this season. Crennel emerged as the top candidate to replace him after the interviewing process.

Bruschi going to Pro Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — New England Patriots linebacker Teddy Bruschi on Tuesday was added to the Pro Bowl roster for the first time, replacing injured Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis.

Added to the NFL team on Tuesday was Carolina Panthers linebacker Mark Fields.

Fields, who was designated as a first alternate, replaces Tampa Bay's Derrick Brooks, who will miss the Feb. 13 game in Hawaii with a knee injury.

But there's a big difference between prayer and hard science, and Owens' own personal physician, Mark Myersen, isn't the only doctor who thinks the receiver should sit this one out.

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Waldeckweg 3
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Stuttgart:
Cars International
Bundorfweg 33 a
Tel: 0711-6873080

Vilseck:
Autom. Shopping Center
Sorghof Gut 3
Tel: 09662-87779

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SPORTS



Players' association rejects league's latest offer, which still included salary cap, Page 42

Sports' painful precedents

Eagles wide receiver Owens not first in going against doctors' orders

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Here's one story Terrell Owens has probably never heard: A little-known backup offensive lineman, his leg dripping with blood, pleaded with doctors to be taken to the hospital.

No, the doctors said, it was time to board the airplane and fly back home.

Hours before that, Jacksonville Jaguars lineman Jeff Novak had played three quarters of an exhibition game on a steamy night in Charlotte, knowing he needed to be out on the field to try to save his job. As it turned out, that night would essentially mark the end of his NFL career.

At first blush, Novak's story doesn't appear to have much in common with that of Owens, superstar receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Except for this: By rushing his return from a broken ankle and playing in the Super Bowl on Sunday in the same stadium where Novak used to play, Owens risks bringing his career to a premature close, just like Novak did six seasons ago during that preseason game.

When price glory? Owens, who was at his bombastic best Tuesday in insisting he would be on the field come gametime, is only the latest in a long string of players to bring that question to the fore.

"If it were my son," said Andrew Kirschner, a doctor of osteopathic manual medicine, "I'd say 'Stay home. Tomorrow's another day.'"

Of course, tomorrows on football's biggest stage are far from guaranteed for these players, many of whom play all their life for a chance win a Super Bowl, the way Owens can Sunday.

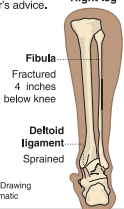
Owens knows the history.

The Eagles fell one victory short of the Super Bowl three

Owens' injury

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens, who suffered a high ankle sprain and a fracture to the fibula in December, says he will play in Sunday's Super Bowl against his doctor's advice.

Right leg



NOTE: Drawing is schematic

Source: Philadelphia Eagles

AP

straight years before he got here. Then he came and the team got over the hump.

No matter that Philadelphia played the last four games without him, while he nursed the ankle he broke in a game Dec. 19. As everyone with the Eagles will admit, Owens was a big part of helping them get this far.

And hearing him Tuesday, it's clear he's not going to let a little injury, or his doctor's foreboding advice, keep him from taking center stage come Sunday.

"I'll be at 81 percent," said Owens, who wears No. 81.

"They've shown what they can do without me, now they'll show what they can do with me. The Eagle 8-1 is back!"

After he retired, Novak won \$2 million in a malpractice lawsuit settlement, claiming the Jaguars team doctor improperly treated a bone bruise that ugly night in Carolina, which led to infections that ended his career.

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KRT

Philadelphia Eagles WR Terrell Owens, who suffered a severe ankle injury on Dec. 19, says he will play in the Super Bowl against his doctor's advice. "I'll be at 81 percent," Owens, who wears No. 81 said Tuesday.



AP

The bloody sock reflected the dedication of Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, who took the mound in the World Series with a dislocated ankle tendon held together by suture.



Former Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis (30), who was the MVP of Super Bowl XXXII and the NFL MVP the following season after rushing for 2,008 yards, says that rushing back from a knee injury prematurely shortened his career.

AP

Lakers coach Tomjanovich resigns because of health concerns

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No. 1 Illinois, No. 5 BC remain unbeaten with victories over Michigan State, West Virginia

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Reports claim NFL's career rushing leader Emmitt Smith will retire on Thursday

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Sosa, Orioles anticipate completion of trade Page 43

